

Village of Skaneateles

Cemetery Board of Lake View Cemetery

Regular Meeting – November 19, 2019

Present: Rob Gray, Chairman
Roben Shappell, Deputy Chair
Pete Buehler, Commissioner
Mary Marshall, Commissioner
Sue Murphy, Commissioner
*Jorge Batlle, Cemetery Administrator
Kathleen Zapata, Trustee
*Miranda Robinson, Assistant Director of Municipal Operations
*Chris Kozub, Vernacular Architectural

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

Minutes - On the motion of Comm. Murphy, seconded by Comm. Marshall, the Board approved the minutes from the September 17, 2019 meeting, upon the unanimous vote among the members present in favor of the motion, it was carried 5-0.

Tree Removals – ADMO Robinson joined the meeting to discuss tree removals in the cemetery. The Board was provided a list with two tree removals and two trees that need pruning. ADMO Robinson said that the removals and pruning will cost \$7,890. She stated that the tree maintenance budget line, with a total of \$3,200, is normally designated for tree plantings. She said that both the DPW and Tree Advisory Board are willing to donate part of their budgets to help the cemetery cover the cost. She said that she is not a tree expert, but Mike Gorham, from Bartlett Tree Service, could explain why the takedowns and pruning are necessary. She noted that the removal is more costly because a crane is needed to remove the white pine to avoid damaging headstones. Chairman Gray said he is concerned that the crane will dig up the lawn, but ADMO Robinson said the crane will be set up on the road and won't cause damage. Chairman Gray questioned when the work would be done. ADMO Robinson said that the work will be done between December and January, and DPW Foreman Dave Short is working with Bartlett on it. She noted that the DPW would be cleaning up the debris. Deputy chair Shappell asked if there were any plantings done this fall. Chairman Gray said no, the plan was to get some trees in, but it didn't happen. Comm. Murphy commented that she is very appreciative of the other departments helping with the cost.

*Mr. Batlle arrived at the meeting.

On the motion of Comm. Murphy, seconded by Comm. Buehler, the Board proposed spending the budgeted \$3,200 toward the removal and pruning of trees in the cemetery, upon the unanimous vote among the members present in favor of the motion, it was carried 5-0.

*ADMO Robinson left the meeting.

Burial Inquiry – DCT Karlik provided the Board with a request to allow Mary Madeline Joseph Kellogg to be buried with her husband, Barry D. Kellogg, in Section 6, Lot 11. The original

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owner of the lot is Lee D. Kellogg, father of Barry and Lonnie. Lonnie is the only living heir; therefore, she is the sole owner of the grave. DCT Karlik said that the granddaughter, Dana Marie, has tried to contact her Aunt but has not had any luck. **On the motion of Comm. Buehler, seconded by Comm. Marshall, the Board agreed that Mary Madeline Joseph Kellogg cannot be buried in section 6, lot 11, without written permission from Lonnie, it was carried 5-0.**

*Mr. Kozub arrived at the meeting.

Grant Update – Mr. Kozub said that all the paperwork has been corrected and refiled with DASNY. He said he hopes for it to be all set by Spring, so he suggested preparing bid information in February and have open bids in March. Mr. Battle questioned why the bid preparation can't get started now. Trustee Zapata responded and said that the Village Board would like to see confirmation that the grant will be approved. Mr. Kozub said that he will circle back and talk to potential bidders to let them know about the project getting closer. He commented that once the grant is approved, he will pass on the information. Mr. Battle asked how the bids will be advertised. Mr. Kozub replied and said that Syracuse Builders Exchange, Inc. would be used, and it would also be posted in the local paper.

Kelley Graves Update – Chairman Gray said that he will be meeting with DPW Foreman Short later today. He said he believes there may be room for cremations. Deputy Chair Shappell commented that there may be some more information in the Village Office.

Planting Request – Chairman Gray said he received a letter from Nancy McDowell. The letter contains a request to plant a hydrangea tree, donated by Mrs. McDowell, behind the headstone of Section 11B, lot 462. Chairman Gray provided the Board with pictures to show the Board the location. He explained how there are multiple bushes in that area, so the tree would have to go in the middle of them. The map of 11B displays where trees and bushes are to be planted. He commented that he was worried about the type of tree because of the low hanging branches. He said that it would make setting up tents for funerals and moving machinery around very difficult. Mr. Battle asked if there are tent and machinery issues with the current trees in section 11B of the cemetery. Chairman Gray replied and said no because the trees that are planted there are much taller. The letter states that there is already a hydrangea tree planted in the cemetery. Chairman Gray said although the cemetery does have one hydrangea tree, it could've been planted up to 50 years ago, and the graves that are around it will not be able to have a tent if needed for a funeral. Comm. Murphy stated that she thinks it is a great idea, but the Board would be setting a precedent. Trustee Zapata questioned whether there are supposed to be trees in that area of section 11B. Chairman Gray said no, there is a planting plan that is followed, and it was designed to be uniform. Deputy Chair Shappell commented that if there is a tree planted in that area, then there should be another tree planted down from it to keep the cemetery uniform. **On the motion of Comm. Murphy, seconded by Deputy Chair Shappell, the Board agreed, although it is a great idea, the planting will not be allowed, as setting a precedent is not in**

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the best interest of the cemetery, upon the unanimous vote among the members present in favor of the motion, it was carried 5-0.

Cemetery Administrator – Mr. Batlle said that there hasn't been much activity, but there were a few sales.

A Village Minute – Trustee Zapata said that the Village has gone to permanent financing for the water line project. She stated that everything will not be finished until the East Lake St. sewer repairs are completed next Spring. She said that sidewalks have been expanded down East Lake Rd. to the Village line. She commented that Hannum St. and Griffin St. are waiting on sidewalks, and they will get done. She said that Villager had to take on a new contractor for sidewalks.

Transactions –

- Section 11B, lot 582 (1 grave), Rebecca A. Bobbett-Cotanch
- Section 6, lot 114 (1st North grave), Christopher T. Pedley and Micheal J. Reilley
- Section 6, lot 164 (2nd South grave), Stephen K. Titus
- Section 11B, lot 596 (3 graves), Kristi C. Thomas
- Section 11B, lot 460 (2 graves), Sharon A. and Michael J. Hallinan
- Section 11B, lot 507 (2 graves), Emily and James Johnson
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Next Meeting – The next meeting has been scheduled for January 21, 2020, at 9:04 am.

On the motion of Deputy Chair Shappell, seconded by Comm. Marshall, this meeting was adjourned at 9:35 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kierstin Karlik
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer