

Village of Skaneateles
Cemetery Board of Lakeview Cemetery
Regular Meeting – August 16, 2012

Present: Robert Gray, President
Patricia Blackler, Commissioner

Jim McManus representing Bob Lotkowitz, DMO
James Lanning, Village Trustee
Roben Shappell, Assistant Village Clerk

Dennis Dundon, Clerk to the Boards

Absent: Gary Trenti, Commissioner

President Gray called the meeting to order at 9:00.

Comments from Roben Shappell -- Ms. Shappell reported that in a recent transaction (Graham) it came to light that there may be some unmapped grave site room adjacent to sites shown on the maps in Section 11A. In some cases there is room for 4 graves, though only 3 are shown on the maps. She indicated the locations on the map. They may have been undesignated because of their location close to the access road. President Gray suggested that the situation be disregarded at the present time.

She also reminded the Board that Bill Perkins used to do the entry of all interments into the ledger books, such as the Lot Owners book and the Burial records. This was typically done at the end of the year. With his transfer to the Light Dept., the question arises as to who will be performing this task in the future. If it is to be DMO Lotkowitz, he needs to be aware of the requirement. If it is to be the office staff, more than temporary part-time help will be required. Ms. Shappell assured the Board that the logs and electronic records are being faithfully maintained. It is the hand-written entries into the 100-year-old ledger books which is at issue. Comm. Blackler observed that the cemetery records are vitally important. President Gray noted that Perkins' transfer took place without any advance notice to the Board. Ms. Shappell feels that someone else on staff needs to be familiar with cemetery procedures and records.

Investments – President Gray asked for an update on the Board's request for investment latitude, since bank interest rates are so low. Where the Village used to receive some \$14,000 in interest income three years ago, it is now earning about \$800. The Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) mandates that perpetual care funds be retained undiminished in perpetuity, and that only the interest earned thereon may be used to provide the perpetual care services. OSC further mandates that the funds be invested only in riskless securities, which are currently yielding low rates of return. The OSC representatives are expected to contact Village Attorney Byrne, but that has not taken place yet. The Village is seeking approval to invest in higher-yielding assets.

Organ – President Gray reported that Tony Lombardo had looked at the organ and feels that it is a beautiful piece. It does not need any repairs or tuning. It is extremely strong for the relatively small space. The old organ is awaiting disposal. The organ has been played recently at a service.

Upkeep – President Gray indicated that we should continue the annual process of replacing dead bushes in section 11A. Tony LoBello has been doing it and is doing a good job. Mr. McManus will verify the amount of funds available with Village Clerk/Treasurer Couch, and will contact Mr. LoBello.

President Gray asked about the status of the new backhoe. Trustee Lanning said that while it was originally scheduled for 8/15, it has been pushed back to early-September delivery. This is also need to do the work on the Prentiss Drive path.

President Gray was called about unauthorized removal of flowers from a grave. The police will be vigilant.

The issue of artificial flowers came up, and it was agreed that there is no prohibition against artificial flowers in Lakeview Cemetery. Mr. McManus said that a grave next to Tiny Boatman's, in Section 11A, was covered with "junk and flowers". President Gray reminded that only one pot per grave is permitted.

Burrows Family – Some unofficial documentation has surfaced that indicates that perhaps the Sheppard family owns two graves in the Burrows plot. These have been claimed to have been transferred by another member of the Burrows family. Robert Burrows wants them back, and there is a possibility that the Sheppard family is not interested in them. All are in agreement that the Village should not be involved in the resolution of this issue. President Gray said that he would contact Robert Burrows and tell him to resolve the matter directly with Stew Sheppard.

Veterans Marker Foundations – We will be picking up 5 new foundations on Monday. The guys will need a check for \$150 payable to Oakwood Cemetery. That will leave 5 foundations still on order.

Transactions – On the motion of Commissioner Blackler, seconded by President Gray, it was resolved and unanimously carried (2-0 in favor) that the following Deeds and Deeds of Trust be signed, sealed and delivered:

Section 6, Lot 155, 2 west graves non-monumented
Deed 231, Book 8
Trust Deed 3243

Mary Ann Crane
3369 Franklin Street Road
Auburn, NY

Section 11A, Lot 287, 4 graves monumented
Deed 233, Book 8
Trust Deed 3245

Peter A. & Ruth L. Anderson
3835 Sadler Road
Skaneateles, NY 13152

Section 11A, Lot 259, 4 graves non-monumented
Deed 234, Book 8
Trust Deed 3246

Holden Fenner
19 Leitch Ave.
Skaneateles, NY 13152

Section 11A, Lot 292, 3 graves monumented
Deed 235, Book 8
Trust Deed 3247

Nancy Graham
4033 Highland Ave.
Skaneateles, NY 13152

Discussion took place about the timing of opening Section 11B. Trustees' permission is required to open a new section. President Gray thinks it will be happening within two years,

Next Meeting – The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on September 20, 2012 at 9:00 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Dundon