

Village of Skaneateles

Cemetery Board of Lake View Cemetery

Regular Meeting – September 18, 2023

Present: Rob Gray, Chairman
Roben Shappell, Deputy Chair
Mary Marshall, Commissioner
Susan Fox, Commissioner
Pete Buehler, Commissioner
Trustee Richards
DMO Posella

Guest: Stacy Drake

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

Minutes - On the motion of Comm. Fox, seconded by Comm. Marshall, the Board approved the minutes from the September 21st meeting, upon the unanimous vote among the members present in favor of the motion, it was carried 4-0.

Stacy Drake came in to speak about a few things going on in the cemetery, and she was representing herself, and a few close friends that couldn't make it. There were some sentimental knick knacks that were picked up from stones of her friends and she said they would just like to gain an understanding of what exactly is allowed and when. She also mentioned that she has been in the cemetery very frequently and she thinks that the Village DPW staff is doing a great job of keeping up on it, and thanked them for their hard work. Stacy specifically mentioned 2 bronze plates that were sitting on the base of the headstone for Steigerwald that had been there for several years. She also suggested to put a billing reminder on the bills at the end of September, to help get the word out to people that may not realize.

Transactions –

- No new transactions for November

Cremation Certificates – DMO Posella wanted to make sure everyone was on the same page with the certifications being a necessity for burials. Ran into an issue with a burial last week, no cremation certificate was presented, and the funeral director wanted the Village DPW to bury the cremains without it, stating that they would get it for them afterwards. The DPW declined, until a cremation certificate was presented.

New Business –

- *Updating Dates for Clean Up* – DMO Posella read the section of the Rules and Regulations to the Board that pertained to fall clean up items and dates, they are currently very strict and to the point. President Gray commented and said that he believes metal items and the shepherds hooks should be allowed to stay all year long. He does not believe anything on the headstones should be touched by our Village staff, but it should be picked up by the existing date of 10/15. DMO Posella stated that some decorations such as pebbles and loose change may not stay on the headstones when they do the fall cleanup of leaves with high powered leaf blowers. Comm.

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Buehler said that he definitely thinks that we need to go back through the Rules and Regulations to make everything a lot cleaner on this subject, and we need to take into account the items that people are missing. The Board, DMO Posella and Trustee Richards all agreed on this, and agreed that this is a very sensitive subject for both the Board and the families, loved ones and owners of the lots in the cemetery

- *Veteran Memorials* – DCT Christy let the Board know that a gentleman had called the office and spoke with her about possibly getting some memorials done for the Veterans that are in Lakeview Cemetery. DCT Christy will reach out and get more info, but the idea sounds great!
- *Split Payments for Graves* – DCT Christy let the Board know that a Wanda Sweet had called, interested in a lot in Lakeview, but would like to make the payments overtime. President Gray said that would be something that we should talk to the Village attorney about, but Deputy Chair Shappell said that it had been done in the past, with a short period of time allotted to make the payments.
- *Meeting Day* – Moving the meeting day was brought up again, but the Board decided to keep it on the third Monday of every month at 9am.

Other/Old Business –

- DMO Posella let the Board and President Gray know that we looked through the civil service website but were not able to find a specific job description for a Sexton. President Gray said that he had the description, and he would share that with DMO Posella and DCT Christy. DMO Posella let President Gray know that he would like to see someone in there to oversee the day to day at the cemetery and hopefully by April.
- The Board discussed the 5 year plan for the cemetery which includes the construction of “Section 12” and some necessary maintenance that needs to be done to the buildings and grounds. Trustee Richards said that we need to start compiling projects and figures to present to the Board for this timeline. Comm. Buehler asked about where the Burrows Chapel was at, as he believes that should be a main focal point. DMO Posella is working on wrapping it into another project that would make it more appealing for contractors to bid on for work. President Gray and DMO Posella talked about what needed to be addressed most.
- DMO Posella brought up planting memorial trees in the cemetery that could be dedicated. The Village would like to start this up again but is looking for places to plant the trees.

Next Meeting – The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 18, at the Village Hall.

On the motion of Comm. Fox, seconded by Comm. Marshall, the Board approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:52am, upon the unanimous vote among the members present in favor of the motion, it was carried 4-0.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Cori Christy,
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

DRAFT