

VERNON CEMETERY COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2014

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The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m by Chairman Jean Luddy.

Present: Jean Luddy, Lois-Jane Tonski, Stuart Edwards, Judy Hany, Cemetery Superintendent Alan West, and Cemetery Secretary, Carol Nelson. Absent: Scott Brown. Finance Director Jim Luddecke arrived during the meeting.

Citizen's Forum – No members of the public were present.

The minutes of the meeting of June 3, 2014 were accepted as presented upon a motion made by Lois Tonski, seconded by Stuart Edwards, and unanimously voted.

**Superintendent's Report**

- a. **Chapel damage update** - The report from the engineer Jim Silva has been received. The bell tower needs to be stabilized before the winter and the west wall needs restoration. It will be necessary to go out to bid for this work. Bob Hurd is working on the list of building for Historic Property designation. This will place it on the list of State Historic Properties when approved.
- b. **Graffiti update** – Arrests were made of two individuals who were caught putting graffiti on the bridge. With much effort they have cleaned up the paint to a satisfactorily acceptable status and charges will not be pressed.
- c. **Financial Report – Investments** – Finance Director Jim Luddecke presented an update on the status of the invested funds. He explained that the trust fund originally had numerous individual passbooks and were over time liquidated and placed into an investment trust fund. Following the market difficulties of 2007, the new investments were placed into CLASS collateralized treasury securities that presently earn .5% net of fees. They will be moved to a conservative growth in equity accounts with 8 ½ to 9 ½ % earnings with fees in the 1 ¼ % range with Wells Fargo. Handouts were distributed that show the Wells Fargo investments.
- d. **Tagging of Lots** – Alan explained that a number of the tagged items have been removed, but others have appeared. After some discussion it was agreed that one or two personal items on or next to the base would be acceptable. In no way is the Vernon Cemetery Commission responsible for their loss or damage. There is no need to place this item in the Rules and Regulations. Mrs. Lalancette will be contacted with the agreement in reference to her grave decoration.
- e. **Monument style** - The request of Lucille Derby for a monument for a single grave in the shape of a horse with her ceramic photo to be included was discussed. It was agreed that the monument style should keep to the rectangular shape and her request was denied.
- f. **Fyler, Sec. H, Lot 27** – Interment book records indicate that a burial for Adam Kermish was on this lot in 1948. Mr. Fyler bought this lot in 1958 and wishes to use the spaces. The graves will be dug in the presence of a funeral director to determine if Mr. Kermish is interred on this lot. If his grave is located, a vault will be purchased and Mr. Kermish will be interred elsewhere in the cemetery.

**Other Business** – Old Ledgers pertaining to the operation of the former Henry Building, 8 Park Place, were turned over to Chairman Jean Luddy for placement with the Vernon Historical Society. These ledgers cover the income and expenses of the rentals for the building that was left in the will of E. Stevens Henry to the Grove Hill Cemetery and designated for use as income for the cemetery. Since this building was torn down in the 1960's, the rental fund balance has remained in the cemetery funds. The opportunity to combine this rental account with the funds received from the sale of the land that was entrusted to the Town Treasurer was discussed. Income in excess of \$25,000 in this second account can be used for cemetery expenditures. The balance of this fund is expected to be between \$39,000 to \$45,000 and will be

moved out of the present CLASS collateralized account invested in Treasury securities into a new mutual fund account with the annual fee to be in the range of \$250/year. Monies placed into this account can be easily accessed. A motion was made by Judi Hany, seconded by Lois Tonski and unanimously approved to provide the ability to move the Henry Building Fund Rentals account into the Town of Vernon Henry Fund account.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. with a motion made by Stu Edwards and seconded by Lois Tonski.

*Carol S. Nelson*

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Cemetery Secretary

Approved: *December 2, 2014*