

VERNON CEMETERY COMMISSION

December 4, 2018

The regular meeting of the Vernon Cemetery Commission was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairman Jean Luddy at the Cemetery Office at Grove Hill Cemetery. Members present were Jean Luddy, Judy Hany, Stuart Edwards, and Norine Edwards. Absent was Lois-Jane Tonski. Also present were Superintendent Alan West, Secretary Carol Nelson and Jon Roe.

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Citizen's Forum – Jon Roe was invited to speak at the discussion of the David Allis headstone. No other members of the public were present.

Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting of June 5, 2018 – A motion was made by Norine Edwards, seconded by Judy Hany and unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2018 regular meeting as presented.
- b. Special Meeting of September 12, 2018 – A motion was made by Norine Edwards, seconded by Stu Edwards and unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2018 special meeting as presented.

Superintendent's Report

- a. Employee Status – Alan West announced that he will be retiring as of January 2, 2019. The Superintendent position has been posted with an application due date of December 28. The last seasonal employee will be finishing up on December 7. This will leave only the maintainer on staff after Alan's retirement.
- b. The Financial Report 2017-2018 was distributed to the members for their review.
- c. Budget preparations – a zero based budget for FY 2018-2019 is being requested from all departments with an earlier due date of December 28.

Unfinished Business

- a. Veterans Memorial Walkway – Twenty-five bricks have been installed. One new order will be waiting until Spring for completion and installation. Flyers will be made available.
- b. David Allis Headstone – Bamforth Road Cemetery Jon Roe explained the project. Artist Randall Nelson of Willington has submitted a proposal. Jon presented seed money to Jean Luddy for the Vernon Historical Society who has voted to sponsor the project as a 501c(3). It is hoped that with Bolton's 300th Anniversary in 2020, an appreciation between the two towns for their common history will bring the towns closer together. A ceremony will be held with the completed headstone in place.
- c. Fence at Dobsonville Cemetery – With the old chain link fence removed the cemetery appears rather naked, yet the beauty of the stones is more visible. The boulders were rearranged providing more protection from errant vehicles. With the onset of winter installation of any new fence would need to wait until Spring. Thirty-five feet of a guard rail at the apex would

most likely provide the additional protection although it is not an attractive or appropriate to the period. Three foot granite posts with iron railings were also discussed. It was agreed to wait until the March meeting to further discuss options on the fence. The Commission will receive at that time design ideas and proposals. A motion to table this item to March was made by Judy Hany, seconded by Norine Edwards and unanimously approved.

- d. Chapel – The RFP was recalled with more detail needed for the specifications. Architect Bob Hurd will be putting together a “white paper” that will outline the steps in restoration with specifics. It was agreed by the town departments heads that this would be the best way to approach the restoration.

New Business –

- a. Wreaths Across America – The ceremony will be held at Lugg Field on Saturday, December 15 at 12:00 noon, rain or shine. Ten additional wreaths will be received for placement at additional locations in town.
- b. Meeting Dates for 2019 – A motion was made by Judy Hany, seconded by Stu Edwards and unanimously voted to set the meeting dates for 2019 as March 5, June 4, September 3, and December 3.
- c. Veteran Flag Display Policy – Flags have been left on veterans graves but according to the Flag Code adopted by the US Congress, this may not be appropriate. They are not lit after dark and suffer damage from wind and rain. As they become tattered or the poles break, they are removed. Other cemeteries have a policy to display flags on veteran graves from the Saturday before Memorial Day through July 4 after which they are removed. The Commission may wish to consider a policy on this matter in consultation with the American Legion.

Any Other Business

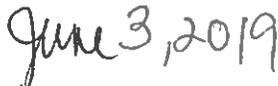
- a. The Town of Vernon has located a new publisher for the popular town magazine. Articles are being requested for its first edition.
- b. Cemetery Agent - A motion was made by Stu Edwards, seconded by Norine Edwards and unanimously approved to appoint Carol Nelson as Cemetery Agent with this appointment to be recorded at the office of the Town Clerk.

Alan West, retiring Superintendent was presented a DVD that was made of Grove Hill Cemetery some years ago, including an interview with Myrtle Loftus and Alan. He was thanked for his years of service – 36 years, since 1982 – and wished well in retirement.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m. with a motion made by Judy Hany, seconded by Stu Edwards and unanimously approved.

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Approved:




Carol S. Nelson

Cemetery Secretary