

Notes from Joint meeting of Cemetery Comm. w/t Selectmen, 9/29/09

Present: R. Olson, Chair; M. Collins; G. Howe [A. Berg excused]; A. Lemme, Cemetery Superintendent.

The Cemetery Comm. was called to order at 6:46pm, by the Chair, the Selectmen's agenda having been revised at the request of Ms. Avellar. Mr. Olson introduced Mr. Collins & Mr. Howe, and Mr. Collins distributed revised Minutes of the Commission meeting of Sept. 1, 2009.

Mr. Olson introduced the Revised Cemetery Rules and Regulations, as previously approved unanimously by the Commission at the meeting of September 1, 2009. The Selectmen approved the Rules and Regulations as presented at 6:49pm.

Then Mr. Olson introduced the second item on our agenda – the issue that we are running out of space in the Town Cemetery. It would appear that there are only 5 single & 3 double lots left. A moratorium is in place for all sales not directly related to interments. Mr. Lemme reported on his informal survey of available space – he identified approximately 2 acres “adjacent to the Buildings and Grounds Office.” If we use ½ of that it would accommodate about 500 single lots as well as required roads and access. [See Lemme's attached report].

The issue of funding for the extension of the Cemetery is now in the hands of the Selectmen – who noted that there is small probability of a November Special Town Meeting. Thus it may be a while before we get clearance for the work. That would include grading by DPW personnel and a Survey by an outside contractor. The Selectmen picked up on the “undercurrent” between the Commission and the finance officers. We were surprised by the Town Manager's announcement that we had more money than we thought, and all would be revealed at a meeting with the outside auditors in November.

As the Joint meeting concluded, Mr. Howe brought up the other item on our agenda: the worn and dangerous lowering device that is a hazard to Town personnel and constitutes a risk of damage to any coffin being lowered into a grave. This seemed to be a surprise to all supervisory personnel present, It seems likely that a replacement will be found.