

Otisco Township Cemetery Committee Meeting – August 5, 2015

Present: Maryann Reeves, Laura Staats, David Hodges, Paul Reeves

The Cemetery Committee reviewed the minutes from the meeting of June 15, 2015.

Connie and Tom Doty of Gravestone Restoration Services were present regarding the work to be done on the broken stones at Smyrna Cemetery. A deposit of \$550 was requested, and the statement was given to Lynda Sower so that a check may be issued by the Tuesday, August 11, 2015 board meeting for mailing to them. The balance owed on the statement would be \$1100, this amount may change if some of the stones cannot be repaired as specified. In the event some stones cannot be repaired an alternative will be presented and if it exceeds the original price quote a new number will be given for our consideration and acceptance or rejection. The following broken monuments for; Gordon Thompson, Ellen – by the Fish monument, Charles Hart, Polley Kenney, Mrs. Benjamin Moe, Pliny Sabin, Pliny Baby, Belez, Mrs. Alvin Moe, an Unreadable by Mary Jane Osborne, Unreadable next to Jones - civil war veteran, and Chris Spencer, were selected for cleaning and repair.

R. Shultz has been contacted regarding doing the driveway at Smyrna Cemetery, we are waiting to find out when we fit in his schedule.

The current Cemetery Ordinance was reviewed and editing changes were suggested. Laura will create a new copy of the proposed Cemetery Ordinances for presentation to the Otisco Township board and for further review by the Cemetery Committee.

The following are some of the suggestions to be included in the revised ordinance:

Paul suggested that he would like to see in the new ordinances that a new foundation ordinance would be implemented. That rule would basically state that one large base be used to support all the markers within the plot, in effect creating a ribbon of concrete the full width all the cemetery plot, also allowing sufficient space for the addition of an urn. This would facilitate easier maintenance and make for a cleaner looking cemetery. Also, that for veterans graves that a flag holder be permanently embedded in the foundation to facilitate the placing of flags at all veteran graves.

Current ordinance states two cremation burials per plot. New ordinance to allow four cremation burials per plot, specifying that only one large monument capable of holding all 4 names be allowed per plot.

The removal of 'Sexton' from making decisions regarding burials, monuments, etcetera allowed in either Cemetery. The restated ordinances would state that only the Township Clerk Office could make those decisions.

All payments for services should be made to the Otisco Township Clerk Offices. That a letter be sent to all funeral homes in the area that regularly service our community and cemeteries and that includes a copy of the new ordinance.

The Cemetery committee will schedule a work days for some time in August or early September for cleanup and trimming in the Smyrna Cemetery, to be followed by a cleanup day in Otisco Cemetery.

It was noted that in the current ordinance states in Section IV, item C that the monies received by the Township are to be deposited into the cemetery and perpetual care fund. Paul will bring this up at the Township board meeting that we need to make sure that these funds are being deposited as stated in the ordinance.

Laura will price trash containers at McCord's, and Paul will see if he can find someone to donate plastic barrel's for free. It was determined that three were needed for the Smyrna Cemetery and two extra for Otisco.

Laura will measure and calculate the paint required for the Sexton's shed at Smyrna and purchase it. David stated that he would handle painting the building once the materials were acquired.

For Future discussion:

Removal of the fence on the north side of the south entrance drive, was discussed, it was determined that this would facilitate easier maintenance, removal of leaves in the autumn, and create a cleaner look to that portion of the cemetery.

Paul stated that he will contact someone regarding re-landscaping the front hill. The current landscape is difficult to maintain. He will investigate the inclusion of the word Smyrna in the landscaping, be it in a planted shrub that would require trimming to maintain the display. Or possibly some other material could be used to spell out the cemetery's name.

Possibility of finding an inexpensive alternative way to mark gravesites that are more than a year old and do not have a permanent marker.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura J. Staats