

Cemetery Commission met on November 19th at 4pm.

Alice Sky, Nancy Ellen, and sexton Joe Mangan

Nancy is in contact with Rebecca, our agent at Edward Jones. Last year our investment account made a profit of \$12-13K. We discuss the meaning of Perpetual Care, noting that the principal of our investment account is for Perpetual Care use (mowing, weedwhacking, uprighting stones, road repair, etc. For details and legal definition, see the Secretary of State's website called Digging Deep). The profit from our investment account is available for cemetery expenses that are not Perpetual Care.

After paying the past-due electricity bill to GMP, we intend to stop paying for services at Plainmont because we have no need for electricity there. The equipment in the shed at Plainmont will be sold in the springtime. Also in the spring, Joe will work on resurfacing the Plainmont driveway.

Our new email address will be Cemeteries@PlainfieldVT.gov

Alice will write for the Town Report and include Green Burial updates, tree work, stone repair, and current Cemetery Rules and updated fees for plots and burials.

Nancy describes the Green Burial area at Robinson Cemetery in Calais and Joe shares how he is setting up Green Burial at Plainmont cemetery.

We own a piece of land between Rt2 and the Winooski, roughly across from Plainmont. In years past, it was the Paupers' cemetery. What shall we do with this land? It is currently used by Fairmont farm for corn. Could we use it as riparian buffer for the Winooski? It is not needed for more cemetery land. We have plenty of lots available in the current cemeteries.

We review our fees for lots and burial services. Joe is suggesting raising some of the fees by \$100 to match surrounding towns. Green burial lots are the same price as lots for vault and/or casket lots, but the burial fee is higher because the sexton has to do more work. We clarify the language to explain that all graves are maintained as "perpetual care" and it is not necessary to specify that desire when purchasing a lot. Next month we will formalize the updated fees for lots and burial services and post it to the town website along with the Cemetery Rules.

Joe and Kaira Mangan are changing the name of their business from Kirkyard Services to Hill House Estates, LLC. Their new email is hhe.cemeterydivision@gmail.com

It is time for a new mowing contract. Joe has submitted a bid for \$17K per year for the next four years. Alice will consult with the Town Clerk about requesting other bids. We discuss

the subtleties of mowing... ground conditions not too wet and not too dry, grass able to infiltrate significant rain, etc.

Joe and his team uprighted ~50 stones at Center Cemetery on Bartlett Rd. Thank you! More maintenance is needed.. maybe \$1000 next year and the following year.

We'd like to invite relevant neighbors to come discuss the water drainage situation at the Village Cemetery. Maybe at our December meeting?