

TOWN OF PLAINFIELD CEMETERY COMMISSION

The Cemetery Commission for the Town of Plainfield met on Wednesday, Nov 8, 2017 at 5:30 pm at the Plainfield Fire Department on Main St.

In attendance:

Commissioners: Paula Ackel, Greg Light, David Spence, and Ed Hutchinson

Minutes of Meetings approved as distributed

Financial status :

Linda prepared financial reports for us. The "fixed costs" in our budget continue to erode the invested funds as our "revenues" fall far short of expenses. We now have been assigned a new representative from Edward Jones, we will plan to meet with the new person after the beginning of January. It would be a good idea to see if the adjustment of our funds this summer has been productive. The budget for next FY will need to be prepared soon. The fixed items control the budget.

FY 2018 - 2019 budget for town report and narrative.

Town meeting narrative:

Should again publicly thank the hardware store for water.

In preparation for the narrative for Town meeting we discussed the things accomplished, including the tree removal at the center cemetery, and the two work sessions at Bisson and Plain-Mont. We had members of the community helping at the Bisson cemetery (Dale Bartlet, and Allen Clark). Dale brought sand a wheelbarrow and other useful tools (I think he has done this work before). Kaye Parton happened to be at Plain-Mont and did some work. It was recommended that in the narrative we ask for volunteers to promote active volunteer work at the cemeteries.

Things not accomplished that are still outstanding:

We have not proceeded toward an objective of being able to offer a "green burial" option. It was suggested that we get a copy of "Dying Green" to be kept at the Cutler Library. We need to have a plan for proper public input.

The monument for the grandparents of Chris Perry at the Village cemetery needs some "foundation" restoration. That should be high on our list of next projects.

Several dead trees remain around the perimeter of the Plain-Mont cemetery. One came down in the recent wind storm but made a mess without causing any permanent damage.

If weather permits and daylight hours are available we may plan to spend some time as individuals to clean up the debris at Plain-Mont left by the storm. Or we may need a spring session. Several other dead trees remain standing.

The "Pig Bench" has a non-conforming foundation that needs to be fixed.

There are some broken monuments at the Center cemetery that need to be repaired.

Status of contracts:

The Status of contracts is not totally clear.

The mowing contract is the bulk of our expense but shrub trimming that is supposed to be done twice each year has been neglected. There have been several complaints of grass clippings not cleared off monuments, tire tracks on stones.... Greg will plan to discuss these issues with the mowing contractor. The proposed contract from April 2015 was originally rejected in favor of a lower bidder's proposal. The lower bid failed after a few weeks and Lamson agreed by phone to pick up the work. The original proposal was for five years, but no actual contract was ever signed.

The Sexton contract is the next biggest expense. There is some concern that we pay a lot for our Sexton's service but many duties that would seem to be typical of sexton duties are charged separately in addition to the contract. Are we getting our money's worth? Greg will speak with a Berlin cemetery official he knows to ask about their arrangements. We do have a signed contract with Kirkyard Services (Joseph) extending through fall 2021.

Other Business:

There were two deeds to be reviewed. Leno (sp?) and Florence Marsha (I can't read my notes), and Robin Goodall. They looked OK and we will sign them with notary present at the town office.

Meeting adjourned about 6:40pm

Edward Hutchinson