

MINUTES

Participants: Cemetery Commissioners Viki Zulkoski, Linda Hamilton and Susan Ohanian; Special Advisor/VT Old Cemetery Association representative Dianne Leary

Minutes of August 4, 2016 meeting were approved and will be placed on Cemetery Commission page of Town website.

Old trees in Barber Cemetery

At our request, Tree Warden Larry Hamilton assessed the soundness of the large old sugar maple on the eastern edge of the cemetery and the white cedar near the center. Both are venerable old trees showing signs of time and storm damage, which makes them more vulnerable to further damage/breakage from storm events. In the interest of prolonging the lives of these graceful assets to the cemetery, he recommends physically reinforcing them.

He consulted two local professional arborists (Gregory Smith and Gregory Ranallo) regarding the best approach, and their recommendations and quotations are attached. He regards both of these arborists highly and knows they would both do high standard work. After consideration, he recommends the approach of Greg Ranallo which involves a non-metal cable (less risk of girdling), and fewer limbs removed. He also recommends that item 4 on Greg Ranallo's quotation (structural pruning of several smaller maples) can be handled by volunteers under the guidance of the Tree Warden.

After reaffirming the value to the cemetery of retaining the old maple and cedar, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the proposal from Gregory Ranallo (Teacher's Tree Service) minus his item #4 for structural pruning of smaller maples. Linda will ask him to resubmit a quotation of approximately \$1,000 to reflect this change in proposed work. She will also inform Greg Smith of the decision.

Apple tree in Bradley Cemetery driveway

In the interest of avoiding a hazard, the Commission decided to ask Tree Warden Larry Hamilton to assess the soundness of the aging apple tree in the driveway turn-around next to Bradley Cemetery. Linda will convey this request to Larry.

Ground-penetrating radar project in Barber Cemetery

We have a project proposal and request for quotation in draft form (which includes helpful technical suggestions from Town Administrator Dean Bloch). Viki has done a preliminary search for companies which specialize in this work and she has been in communication with one based in Boston (GPR Systems). This has helped clarify what results are possible and realistic. Very rough estimate of cost is \$2,000 to survey the entire cemetery and produce a map overlay for an orthophoto of the Barber Cemetery area.

The Commission reaffirmed our commitment to this project as part of our responsibility for due diligence in determining if and where additional burial plots can be sold in Barber Cemetery. Our goals for this project are: more up-to-date information on the probable location of burials than is provided by the 1945 map; indications of buried marker stones missing from the surface; and the presence of rock ledge close to the surface which would make future burials impractical. Viki will contact the two known companies and ask if they can address all three of these specific goals.

Recent communication between Viki and former Cemetery Commissioner Dan Cole confirmed that the University of Vermont Department of Archaeology has the capability to do ground-penetrating radar projects. In 2005 Dan worked with them to survey Bradley Cemetery, with unsatisfactory results. The images produced were fuzzy, inconclusive and not useful. Viki will contact the Department of Archaeology and ascertain if perhaps current staff and equipment may now have the potential for a better result, and if so, would they be interested in assisting with our proposed Barber Cemetery project.

With this additional information, we hope to have a project proposal and request for quotation finalized and ready to approve at our October meeting.

Gravestone repair

With the hope of accomplishing some professional gravestone repair work this fiscal year, Susan will research the professional certification program recognized by Arlington Cemetery, and see if there are certified individuals in this area. Viki and Dianne will carry out a rough field survey of stones in Barber Cemetery in order to document and prioritize repair and other work to be done (i.e. leaning, broken or missing stones, and broken bits piled along the cemetery edge).

FY16 fiscal audit

Viki will advise the Town Auditors that due to Commissioners' travel schedules, we request that the audit of fiscal year 2016 (July 2015 – June 2016) be done in late October. In advance of a meeting, we will provide them with fiscal records and a narrative related to expenses. In preparation for this we will have at least one work session with former Cemetery Commission Treasurer Cheryl Walker, and former

Commissioner Stephen Brooks (who served until current Commissioners were appointed in March 2016).

Current status of cemetery grounds maintenance

Mow! Mow! Mow! is mowing and weed whacking West Burying Ground (Barber) and East Burying Ground (Bradley). Hourly worker Jennings Label is maintaining Quinland-Sherman (off Spear Street) and Marcotte (off Carpenter Road) by weed whacking weekly or bi-weekly for the rest of the growing season. He has completed the spreading of topsoil in low areas in Barber Cemetery, and left enough to fill in the woodchuck hole when no more activity is apparent. (We are hopeful that a few more days of cayenne pepper sprinkled around the hole will cause the animal to abandon the den and not hibernate there.) Hourly worker Stiles Alpeter is no longer available due to school.

We were required by current State and Town regulations to reprocess both Jennings and Stiles as Town employees before they could be paid for work since July 1. This tedious process has now been completed (with perseverance from Linda and patience from Town Clerk Mary Mead), and they will soon be paid. Retroactive paperwork is also required from Alex Hill who carried out tree work in July and has been paid; to date however, Alex has not responded to either telephone or written requests to sign the now-standard forms.

Next meeting

This was confirmed for Thursday October 6, at 9:00am in Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda S. Hamilton, Secretary

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Sent from my iPad  
Email 8/29/16  
From: Gregory Smith [gregoryksmith@me.com](mailto:gregoryksmith@me.com)  
To: Linda Hamilton

Having examined and reexamined the two trees of concern in the west burying grounds my recommendation for the sugar maple on the central east line is the application of a cable between the north and south leaders as well as the removal of a number of living limbs on the north side accomplishing weight reduction and monument clearance. Cost---850

The storm damaged white cedar could be approached in two ways, first a single cable could be applied guarding against catastrophic failure. Cost---225

Or, reducing the overall size of the tree by at least a third insuring against the various leaders splitting or breaking, as well as catastrophic failure. No cable. Cost---525

Thank you, Greg Smith  
Arborist

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Teacher's Tree Service

WWW.TeachersTreeService.com

Treeguy@gmavt.net

Office: (802) 316-1545

P.O. Box 602

Shelburne, VT 05482

Fax: (802) 453-2

August 30, 2016

PROPOSAL

Proposal #: 2690

Larry Hamilton /Barber Cemetery Home: (802) 425-795

Proposal Date: 8/30/2016

Customer #: 2154

342 Bittersweet Lane

Charlotte, VT 05445

SalesRep: C

Fax:

Type:

Terms in Days: 15

Item#	Quantity	Description of Services	Item Am
1	3	Cedar damaged cedar in the center. 3 Cobra synthetic cables to prevent splitting.	450.00
2		Sugar Maple Lower East side Crown raising consists of the removal of the lower branches of a tree to provide clearance Also prune out major deadwood.	350.00
3		Sugar Maple Install a steel cable connecting two major halves and including small decayed leader in the middle.	250.00
4		Maples Remove deadwood and crossing, and redundant limbs, raise for clearance Structural prune for future structural integrity.	600.00

\$75/each for small ones, \$150 each for larger trees

Clean and rake lawn as per agreement.

Proposal SubTotal: \$1,650.00

Should you have any questions, or if you wish to make any changes to this Proposal, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please sign and return as soon as possible to State Taxes: 0.00 schedule work. Local Taxes: 0.00

Discount Amount:

0.00

Greg Ranallo

**Proposal Total:
\$1,650.00**

Required Deposit:
0.00 Authorized:
Date:

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