

CEMETERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Community and Development Services Office
Downstairs Meeting Room
Thursday September 24, 2009
9:08 a.m.

Present: Members, Brubacher, Crump, Howes, Hunter, and Jones.

Staff: Tucker, and Wilson

Regrets: Member Deans, and Councillor Atfield.

Member Howes in the Chair.

New Member Theresa Jones was introduced to Committee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by – Member Crump
Seconded by – Member Brubacher

That the Cemetery Advisory Committee agenda of September 24, 2009 be approved, as printed.

.Carried

MINUTES

Moved by – Member Crump
Seconded by –Member Brubacher

That the Cemetery Advisory Committee minutes of June 25, 2009 be approved, as printed.

.Carried

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

In response to a question, the Cemetery Supervisor reported that funds are unavailable this year, to replace or repair the fence at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Member Jones noted she has observed similar issues at other cemeteries throughout the County.

CEMETERY SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

The Cemetery Supervisor reported the following information:

- summer students will begin removal of flowers over the weekend;
- one summer student will continue to assist with grass cutting and weeding;
- the number of burials remains steady;
- repair of stones, and tree and brush maintenance have been completed at the Brant Cemetery;
- plans for 2010 include maintenance work at the Burford Congregational Cemetery, long term plans include a small number of repairs each year, for the next 15 year, as budget allows;
- damage to several stones in the Scotland Cemetery can be attributed to possible vandalism.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter to Committee from Margaret Hunter Re: Items to be resolved with attachment

Committee reviewed and discussed a letter from Margaret Hunter, listing items in need of repair or attention at the Scotland Cemetery. The Cemetery Supervisor agreed to review County resources to determine when the issues raised by Ms. Hunter, can be addressed. Committee concurred that a letter of appreciation will be sent to Mr. Robert Drysdale for his dedication to cleaning up debris from along the south fence of the Scotland Cemetery and greatly improving the overall look of that particular area.

Discussion ensued regarding the budget allocated for cemetery repair. The Cemetery Supervisor reported that there are enough funds to allow repair of two stones per year, creating the challenge of determining which ones are in the most need. Member Jones suggested investigating ways to increase the allocation of funds for cemeteries. It was noted that it will take time to repair damages incurred from past neglect. Committee concurred that more funds should be allocated for monument repair both in the active and inactive cemeteries

Committee discussed various ways in which different types of stones are repaired, and policies and procedures governing same. It was noted that sand stones as a flat marker are more susceptible to damage from environmental factors such as rain and snow.

OTHER BUSINESS

St. George Cemetery

The Cemetery Supervisor reported that unauthorized vehicles are responsible for creating traffic issues through the subdivision neighbouring the St. George Cemetery, resulting in complaints from neighbours. The offending vehicle operators have been informed that permission must be obtained from Council, via Committee, to make use of the gravel laneway at the corner of the cemetery. It was noted that cemetery property line is unclear.

The Cemetery Supervisor reported that funds have been allocated to purchase an acre of property in St. George, pending a decision from the property owner to sell one parcel of land at a time, instead of two.

Paris Cemetery Fence

The Cemetery Supervisor reported that staff has removed the fence that existed bordering the portion of the Paris Cemetery along King Edward Street, between the two entrance ways. The County will enlist the services of "Need-A-Fence" to install replacement chain link fence, as a result of their competitive prices. In response to a question, the Cemetery Supervisor reported that past issues with unauthorized snowmobiles, as well as people on horses using the cemetery paths will be prevented by the new fence.

ADJOURNMENT and NEXT MEETING

Committee adjourned at 9:50 a.m., on a motion of Member Howes, to meet again on Thursday November 26, 2009 at 9:00 a.m., at the Paris Community and Development Services Office.

Secretary