

**TOWN OF LUDLOW
BOARD OF CEMETERY COMMISSION**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 19, 2011

Board Members Present:

Herbert VanGuilder, Nataile Gruber, John Paige

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairperson, Herbert VanGuilder.

Approve Meeting Minutes:

- a. MOTION by John Paige and seconded by Nataile Gruber to accept the minutes of September 21, 2011 as presented. So voted.

Comments from Citizens:

- a. None present.

New Business:

- a. Herb VanGuilder noted that Ludwig Gabranski was not feeling well and was unable to attend this meeting.
- b. Herb VanGuilder noted the following cemetery projects:
 1. In the new lot, the gully is really full and the staff have been leveling and picking rocks.
 2. Brush Cutting is still on-going.
 3. Currently the staff is replacing the leaky water line in the first section of the upper level.
- c. Herb VanGuilder stated that he was very proud to announce that the staff has repaired over 300 markers/monuments. Most of this much needed work has been performed in the older section of the lower cemetery, in back of the new and old tombs. The Commissioners were happy to hear these results, as this is the first time for this magnitude of this type of work being completed. Herb VanGuilder also noted that it will take several years to complete this type of project before it will become an easy annual maintenance job. Herb VanGuilder also noted that there wasn't much of this type of work completed in the past years and that all of the markers/monuments are being recorded as the repairs are completed.
- d. Herb VanGuilder stated that a neighbor by the South Hill Cemetery is very concerned about the old trees. This neighbor feels that one in particular may come down on one of his vehicles. Chairman, Herb VanGuilder will check with the company.
- e. Herb VanGuilder noted that the staff is very cooperatively working with George at the Transfer Station. Joe Gaudiana is working 8-20 hours/week at the recycling center. The Transfer Station is paying for the Cemetery Staff's time. Transfer Station Operator, George Fairchild, is very impressed with Joe and Bob's assistance.
- f. The staff will be finalizing the cemetery for the winter by mowing/mulching leaves, and flowers will be removed. John Paige asked if the flowers could be placed at the recycling center for others to reuse. Staff will check with George Fairchild and move the flowers there if possible.
- g. Chairman Herb VanGuilder explained that beginning with the first week in November, the staff will begin to down size for the season. By December 1, 2011 all staff will be laid off. Herb also noted that he has talked with all of the staff about returning in May 2012 and he is happy that it appears that all staff would like to return to their cemetery jobs in May, providing they can survive the laid off months.
- h. Herb VanGuilder noted that he has advised the Municipal Manager of the staff layoffs and has also brought him up-to-date with the cemetery activities.
- i. John Paige noted that he did not want the cemetery to get back into the same position that it was in before when the cemetery department was paying most of the benefits while some of the staff were working for the town in the 'off' months.

Adjourn:

- a. MOTION by John Paige and seconded by Nataile Gruber to adjourn. So voted.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Herbert VanGuilder
Acting Clerk

Herbert VanGuilder, Chairman

Nataile Gruber, Vice Chair & Flowers Chair

Ludwig Gabranski, Clerk

John Paige

Brett Sanderson