

Village of Bellaire

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Helen Schuckel, Chair

Terry Smith (Forest Home Twp.)

David Schulz (Village Council)

MEETING MINUTES

May 23, 2012

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Schuckel called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.
2. **Roll Call Attendance**
 - Present:** Helen Schuckel, Terry Smith, David Schulz
 - Absent:** None
 - Staff Present:** Ken Stead, Cemetery Sexton and Janet Koch, Clerk
 - Also Present:** N/A
3. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved with the addition of New Business Item b) Maintenance due to March snowstorm.
 - Motion by Schulz, seconded by Smith, to approve the agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.**
4. **Approval of the October 29, 2010 Meeting Minutes:** The minutes were approved.
 - Motion by Smith, seconded by Schulz, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.**
5. **Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None presented.
6. **Old Business:** None presented.
7. **New Business**
 - a) **Revision to cemetery ordinance:** the committee read a letter from Cynthia Hickman requesting that the height restriction for cemetery headstones be increased from 36" to 54". Before Mrs. Hickman's mother passed away, she chose a headstone that is taller than 36". The site purchased for her mother is in the older area of the cemetery, lot 588, plots 1-4. The committee and staff discussed various options regarding the issue.
 - Motion by Schulz, seconded by Smith, to recommend that the village council amend the Lakeview Cemetery ordinance Section 29-7 Cemetery markers and monuments letter E) to read: On cemetery lots 1-775, 779-781, 785-787, 791-793, 797-799, 800, 802-803, 806-807, 810-811, 814-815, 818-819, and 1265-1290, no headstone shall be larger than 6' high, 3' wide, and 16" deep. On cemetery lots 776-778, 782-784, 788-790, 794-796, 801, 804-805, 808-809, 812-813, 816-817, 820-979, 1000-1264, no headstone shall be larger than 3 feet high, 3 feet wide, and 16 inches deep. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**
 - b) **Maintenance due to March snowstorm** – Stead reported that the heavy wet snows from the early March storm damaged many shrubberies to the point that they will need to be removed. He said the work will take approximately two days and added that this extra

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maintenance was not included in the cemetery's budget. Smith said that maintenance is one of the responsibilities of owning a cemetery and that it needs to be done. He added that many people judge a community by the how well the cemetery is kept up.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Schuckel, to recommend to the village council that the DPW do the necessary maintenance at the cemetery. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

- 8. Discussion Items:** Smith mentioned an article in a recent issue of the Michigan Township Association magazine. The article described the difficulties of owning and operating a cemetery. Smith also presented a letter and flyer from Abonmarche, an engineering company out of Benton Harbor with an office in Manistee. Abonmarche is offering the surveying services of a Ground Penetrating Radar system that can nondestructively locate burial sites. Koch said she'd contact the company and gather cost information.
- 9. Communications/Informational:** None presented.
- 10. Member/Public Comment:** None presented.
- 11. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Compiled by Janet Koch, Clerk

Approved: _____
Helen Schuckel, Chair

Date: _____