

Village of Bellaire

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Helen Schuckel, Chair

Terry Smith (Forest Home Twp.)

David Schulz (Village Council)

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 2016

9:00 a.m.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Schuckel called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.
2. **Roll Call Attendance**
 - Present:** Chairman Schuckel, President Schulz and Supervisor Smith
 - Absent:** None.
 - Staff Present:** Lori Lockett, Clerk; Ken Stead, DPW Supervisor; Aaron Kirt, DPW
 - Also Present:** Kent Bermingham, Neil Trumble, Paul Trumble and Janis Priebe
3. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as written.
 - Motion by President Schulz, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to approve the agenda as presented.**
 - Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**
4. **Approval of the July 20, 2016 Meeting Minutes:** The minutes were approved.
 - Motion by President Schulz, seconded by Supervisor, to approve the minutes of July 20, 2016 meeting as presented. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**
5. **Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None presented.
6. **Old Business:**
 - Mowing/Maintenance of Lakeview Cemetery:** Chairman Schuckel directed the committee members' attention to the proposed notice for publication on August 18 and August 25 regarding putting the lawn mowing out for bid on a bi-weekly basis. She noted that the village council had already approved the recommendation. The notice was read by President Schulz for the members of the public present. Clerk Lockett confirmed the publication dates with the committee and the notice was approved. Motion by President Schulz to accept the public notice as written to be published in The Antrim Review on August 18 and August 25.
 - Motion by President Schulz, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to accept the public notice as written to be published in The Antrim Review on August 18 and August 25. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**
 - Neil Trumble presented his proposed Eagle Scout project for Lakeview Cemetery. He provided a photograph and explained that his project included straightening the grave stones that are moved or leaning and placing them upright; digging or trenching around the grave stones so that water and matter flows away from them; cleaning the grave stones so they are visible; and repairing or replacing the flag mounts for the veteran's graves. He proposed using small PVC pipe to replace those that cannot be repaired. Neil identified the required equipment for the project. Kent Bermingham explained how he had straightened stones using Quikrete and offered to show Neil. Supervisor Smith noted that the photograph depicted an American Veteran's stone. He asked whether there were other such stones Neil planned to fix? Neil responded they would repair as many, if not all, he could. Neil explained that he would be working with his fellow scouts. Supervisor Smith informed Mr. Trumble that Forest Home Township had a supply of flag holders Neil was welcomed to use. Mr. Bermingham noted that there were some rare flag holders in the cemetery. President Schulz asked whether Neil would be doing any fundraising for the project for the materials and tools? Mr. Trumble explained that Neil had a sponsor for the project already. President Schulz then suggested a couple of projects for future scouts to consider, including identifying Civil War markers and putting together a

Village of Bellaire

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

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history of those veterans buried in the cemetery for inclusion in the historical museum; and, building “hose houses” over the stand pipes in which to store a reel and hose rather than visitors having to tote water jugs from the spigot to a gravesite. President Schulz moved to accept Neil’s proposal for his Eagle Scout badge, for the work to straighten the gravestones and repairing of the flag mounts, with the assistance and mentoring of Mr. Bermingham and DPW Supervisor Stead.

Motion by President Schulz, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to accept Neil’s proposal for his Eagle Scout badge, for the work to straighten the gravestones and repairing of the flag mounts, with the assistance and mentoring of Mr. Bermingham and DPW Supervisor Stead. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Trumble asked who would sign for Neil’s project? President Schulz indicated that he would. Aaron Kirt asked whether some of the tipped stones could be repaired with epoxy? Mr. Bermingham explained that several of the stones had holes in which there were supports; the repair could be made by clearing the hole and putting in a small piece of rebar. He thought the epoxy would be good and that most of the wooden pegs used have just rotted out.

7. New Business:

a) **Cemetery Flag and Flag Pole:** Chairman Schuckel stated that she was at the cemetery the other day and noticed that the flag was very faded and needed to be replaced. The flagpole has portions that are rusted and the paint is peeling off. She wondered if that could be repainted.

b) **Cemetery Sign Maintenance:** Chairman Schuckel also noted that the sign supports could also use painting and the signs for rules and regulations needed to be repaired or replaced.

Motion by President Schulz, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to recommend to village council that they purchase a flag and schedule the repainting of the flag pole and the cemetery sign supports. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

8. Discussion Items:

President Schulz provided an update of the actions taken at the village council meeting and the immediate need to address the cemetery since the mowing contract would not be in place until next year. He reported that council had asked Ken Stead to look at the DPW projects that weren’t absolutely necessary and reprioritize to get the mowing done. President Schulz reported that the cemetery had been mowed the end of last week. He noted also, per village council’s request, Clerk Luckett has been in contact with Michigan State’s turf management people for recommendations. A soil sample will be analyzed so efforts can be made to stabilize the soil in the cemetery.

Janis Priebe expressed her appreciation for the mowing but added that a rose bush that had been on a grave for 14 years is now gone. President Schulz asked her to have the owner contact the village so we can work with them to replace it. She also stated that her headstone had gotten moved and needed to be straightened. She asked if Neil’s project would be completed this year and was informed that it would.

President Schulz then explained that the village council had discussed having a spring maintenance, community clean up event in the cemetery. The thought was to invite area churches, scouts, 4-H groups, and service organizations to help. DPW would identify where brush, needles and clean up materials could be stowed for pickup. The event would be organized for a Saturday and scheduled so that the cemetery would be ready for Memorial Day. President Schulz added that completing such an intense clean up in the spring would

Village of Bellaire

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

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result in the annual clean up being easier to do. President Schulz thanked Neil for his project. He stated that the cemetery may be physically removed outside of the Village of Bellaire but there are a lot memories there. As a village we need to make sure that that space represents the heart that we have as a village for our passed loved ones.

Mr. Bermingham reported that the area in which they have been working has another 50 stones and they will be finished. He indicated that they have also been working on the curbing and that there was another road in the cemetery around several of the graves. He hopes to get to the other side of the driveway to finish the “old section” of the cemetery. His only request regarded the rules and removal of certain shrubs. According to Mr. Bermingham, the section in which they have been working is very old; some of the gravestones are being destroyed because of shrubs. He requested that a lilac bush be removed. He also noted that trees and plants up on the ridge line have encroached over gravestones. He suggested that one possible project for the scouts would be to cut back the brush to uncover the graves.

Mrs. Priebe asked whether it was possible to get more garbage containers in the cemetery? According to Mrs. Priebe, older visitors find it difficult to climb the hill to throw away garbage; more receptacles would help. Additionally she said there has been garbage left by the spigots that has not been cleaned up for over a year. More receptacles by those spigots might help. Supervisor Smith noted that based on their experience in the township, if you provide a place for garbage to be thrown, you have to pick your spot – it invites more garbage than was ever intended. The township had placed, and has since removed, receptacles from 15 road ends because it caused a problem that did not exist prior. The committee agreed to place more receptacles in the cemetery on a trial basis, if they are abused they would have to be removed. Aaron Kirt reported that household garbage has been removed from the receptacle by the mausoleum.

Mr. Bermingham suggested that the request for bids specifically include “trimming” in addition to mowing.

Mr. Trumble stated that if the village purchases a new flag; he will be happy to have his troop retire the old flag. Supervisor Smith said that the township may have a flag to be put into service.

9. Communications/Informational: None presented.

10. Member/Public Comment: Supervisor Stead said that since the last mowing a bench has been place on a gravesite in violation of the rules and regulations. He encouraged enforcement of the rules. President Schulz directed him to provide the information to Clerk Luckett so that a letter and a copy of the rules and regulations could be sent to the owner.

11. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

Compiled by: Lori Luckett, Clerk
Minutes are subject to approval.

Approved: _____
Helen Schuckel, Chairman

Date: _____