Cemetery Trustee Minutes 2/12/19

Members present: Joann Hicks, Pat Cutter, Jim Reed, and Beth Frost.

We discussed the cemetery maintenance in depth. Pat told us that she had an email from Arch Weathers, representing the Budget Committee. Their committee is questioning why the cemetery Trustees have a budget line for labor when in 2015 it was voted to transfer the cemetery labor/maintence to the highway department. This was done, thinking it would save the town money. The budget committee has lowered our requested maintenance amount this year.

Pat replied to Arch that the Trustees would address this issue at our February meeting and explained to him what had happened back in 2015. She said that the Selectmen had acted inappropriately; because of dissension with the cemetery contractor, the selectmen convinced the then Cemetery Trustees to resign and the selectmen took over the role. At a subsequent election, Pat's name and Bill Keyers name were written on the ballot and the Trustees became active once again, minus the control of maintenance of the cemeteries. She further stated that the Trustees are elected officials with all the responsibilities assigned to them. Dealing with the Road Agent over issues of maintenance has been a problem. The Trustees have never been consulted about the details of the budget and have never had a conversation with the Selectmen about it. We wish to keep an appropriation line in our budget for maintenance! She asked that no action be taken until we,the Trustees, have had a chance to discuss this.

Arch replied to Pat that the Budget Committee, after looking into the matter further, agrees with our position. Pat said that we really can't do anything about it now as too late for this budget. We will work on this before next year. She also said that the Selectmen back in 2015, had no authority to do what they did (convincing the Trustees to resign and taking over).

When Pat and Bill were written on the ballot and officially became the new Trustees, Jim Reed stepped up to fill the third position. The three of them at that time decided that the Trustees should have three year terms and they assigned terms to themselves.

Jim explained to us what he feels happened with the highway department doing the cemeteries, as he was a highway department employee until recently. He said the first year things went smoothly, the second year, not so good as the town began needing the workers in other places, the third year it got worse and the fourth year the same, it seemed gradually the cemetery maintenance became more and more not a priority.

On another note of business, Pat received a call from a man named David Alley (from Texas it appears by his phone area code). Mr Alleys father had just died and he owns a lot in the Proctor Cemetery. David was just touching base with us. Pat told him about the markers and said that if they had not already been placed, that they would have to be purchased. She also told him about the digging person. The deceased is being cremated. The burial will be done in the spring. A cousin of David

Who lives in NH will be in touch with us then.

No more business. Meeting adjourned.