Elkton Cemetery Commission Meeting July 20, 2017

Present: Lester Seal, Lee Dearing, Karen Jones, Bill Davis, Chuck Morris

Excused: Betty McGahey, Cathy Morrison, Steve America

Administrative Charlotte Shifflett, Mary Shifflett

Pledge of Allegiance: All in attendance joined in reciting the pledge.

Devotions: Charlotte opened the meeting with a prayer of guidance and devotion.

Lester Seal/Chairman called the meeting to order @ 6:00 pm.

Meeting Minutes

Lee Dearing made a motion, seconded by Bill Davis to accept the April 20, 2017 minutes as written.

Vote = 5-0

Lester Seal, Lee Dearing, Karen Jones, Bill Davis, Chuck Morris

Motion Carried

I. Old Business

By-Laws:

The Cemetery Commission worked on a revision of the By-Laws in 2015. They were reviewed by Elkton Town Council, then sent to the Town Attorney for review.

- Nathan Miller returned them for minor changes, which Charlotte retyped, and listed the revised date as January 2016.
- Our last council representative never finalized the approval thru the council.
- Members of the commission feel like these need approval or an answer as to what is the hold up?
- Lee Dearing still believes the deed made in 1985, between the original Cemetery Commission and the Town of Elkton is the official document even if Elkton Town Council and attorneys refuse to acknowledge it. Cemetery commissioners' wrote the document so town government would not be in total control of Elk Run Cemetery.
- Walter Flick and the original members meant control to be carried out as filed in the deed.
- Charlotte and Bill Davis were advised to attempt to get the By-Laws on the agenda for the August council meeting.

Council Representative/Steve America:

Members of the commission are aware that Steve America is the council representative. They understand he has a commitment to his employer but some have never met him. The general consensus among members is the fact they have no interaction with their representative This is somewhat discouraging to some.

New Business

Members want to "Thank" Lester Seal for removing the letters on the main sign at the cemetery and painting them. They really stand out now.

Lester commented that he noticed some of the shrubs surrounding the sign are obstructing the view of the sign from the road and may need to be removed; something new could be planted to replace them.

Mowing:

- The mowers are doing a fantastic job this year. Many comments have been received regarding how well it looks.
- The office isn't receiving any negative calls this mowing season. At least not in comparison to other years.
- The town and the commission allow owners to mow their own lots if they choose.
- Bill Davis emphasized he used to mow his lot but he quit mowing since the cemetery improved in the last years.
- Owner's place purple flags around the perimeter of their lot (s) so the mower knows to bypass it.
- Troy Shifflett/ Public Works has reiterated numerous times it is hard to watch out for purple flags; your main concern is to avoid damages to stones.
- The cemetery has mowers that are new enough to be in condition, whereas, in the past the mowers were on downtime for numerous repairs.
- Town employees take excellent care of their own assigned mower so this is a major change.
- Charlotte was asked a question, "Why do people want to mow their own lot?"
- She believes relatives do not want damage to a memorial stone. Some people do not like wet grass sticking to their stone.
- Karen Jones knows it is an emotional reason behind certain people's desire to mow. It is part of a grieving process.
- Someone suggested mailing letters to owners who do their mowing and get an opinion.
- Lester Seal wants a list of names of owners that have purple flags surrounding their lots. He would like to determine their personal issue for wanting to mow when the service is provided. He prefers a conversation as opposed to a letter.

Bathrooms:

Members do not want the bathroom construction idea to be forgotten.

- The group held a brief discussion, once again, on how to proceed with the project.
- Charlotte has a drawing of the bathrooms used at the Riverside Park also referred to as Merck Shelter.
- In addition to the bathrooms, the commission wants to go a step further and include a nice foyer to display cemetery maps, list of interments, etc.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting date is scheduled for October 20, 2017 @ 6:00 pm in, the Council Chambers, Elkton Area Community Center located on 20593 Blue/Gold Dr.in Elkton, VA

Lester O. Seal

Chairperson

Cathy Morrison

Vice Chair