

**Unapproved Minutes
Town of Holden
Board of Cemetery Trustees
July 20, 2011 at 5:30pm
Holden Municipal Building**

Members Present:

**Bonnie Clark
Mary Jane Pierce
Joyce Pinkham
Laura Teisl**

Additional Attendees

**John Butts, Holden Town Manager
Bruce Dowling, Holden Town Sexton**

1. Opening

Bonnie Clark opened the meeting.

2. Moment of Silence

3. Approval of May 9, 2011 minutes

Did not approve

4. New Business

A. No New Business

5. Old Business

On June 20, 2011, the Town Council approved the purchasing of a fence around Clewleyville Cemetery from the Cemetery Interest Reserve Fund in the amount not to exceed \$4400. At the same meeting, the Town Council approved the spending of \$1800 from the Cemetery Reserve Funds for tree removal from Tomb Cemetery.

A. Clewleyville Fence

[and tree removal]

The Brewer Fence Company (not the Allenfarm Fence Company, Inc. as stated in the previous minutes) was selected to build a fence for the Clewleyville Cemetery. The cost will be \$2859.23.

Maine Tree Service of Amherst will remove the trees from Tomb Cemetery at a cost of \$1800.00.

E. Cemetery Accounts

John Butts is investigating how the Cemetery Trust Fund & Perpetual Care Account was historically established. The auditor explained that how the Fund was set up (i.e. if it was an endowment), effects how the Board, by law, can spend the money. The original document formalizing the establishment of the Fund is unavailable. Board member Joyce Pinkham's husband, Rodney Pinkham, was a selectman during the time of the establishment of the Fund (1960s? 1970s?). Joyce will have Rodney Pinkham contact John Butts regarding this issue.

The Cemetery Ordinance outlines that we can use money from the Cemetery Trust Fund & Perpetual Care Account after receiving approval from the Town Council. But, how the Fund is defined is not known. A "best effort" endeavor needs to occur to answer this question before we revisit the auditor.

Bonnie Clark explained that Debbie Given had her set up the Land Account to buy land for an additional cemetery. John Butts suggested that the Land Account is no longer needed because of the addition of tax acquired property next to Rowe Cemetery. Bonnie Clark countered that residents would like a cemetery on the east side of Route 1A. The Land Account, as a result, will not change.

Bonnie Clark explained that John Mannelle has expressed interest in selling the Town of Holden land for a cemetery.

John Butts explained that the approx. \$63K in the Cemetery Trust Fund & Perpetual Care Account could easily be used up by projects.

John Butts clarified that, by placing lawn care costs in the budget presented to the Town Council, the money is not taken out of the Cemetery Trust Fund & Perpetual Care Account.

The cost of the fence around Clewleyville Cemetery is taken out of the Interest Earned Account (Cemetery Interest Reserve Fund, account #02-421-00, according to Town Council minutes, June 20, 2011 meeting).

The cost of removing trees from Tomb Cemetery is taken out of the Cemetery Trust Fund & Perpetual Care Account (Cemetery Reserve Funds, account #02-423-00, according to Town Council minutes, June 20, 2011 meeting).

The money from the sale of cemetery lots is placed in the Cemetery Trust Fund & Perpetual Care Account

6. Other Business

John Butts and Bruce Dowling are working on the erosion of the ditch at Hill Rest Cemetery. John Butts is contacting an engineer for further guidance.

Laura Teisl spoke about the need to add dirt around many of the stones in Hart's Corner Cemetery. She also presented a three ring binder of photos of the numerous stones in Hart's Corner Cemetery that need to be fixed. Bruce Dowling explained that there is little time for his crew to add dirt around the stones. John Butts mentioned that a prison crew could possibly assist with moving and spreading dirt. Laura Teisl asked Bonnie Clark if the Boy Scouts could help and Bonnie said that they were too disorganized to be of any help. The subject of working on Hart's Corner Cemetery was tabled for further discussion.

Meeting Adjourned