Cemetery Commission

- 1. <u>Purpose</u>: The Cemetery Commission is responsible for the care and management of the town's public cemeteries.
- Background: Currently the town is responsible for the care and maintenance of four public cemeteries: Deerview (North Williston Road), East (Williston Road), Thomas Chittenden (Williston Road), and Morse (Essex Road). In 2007, a charter revision approved by the Town changed the position of cemetery commissioners from elected to a position appointed by the Selectboard.
- 3. Membership: There shall be five cemetery commissioners appointed by the Selectboard for staggered term of five years. (Town Charter, Section 15 (b)(5)(A))
- 4. <u>Charge</u>: The cemetery commission shall have the following duties and responsibilities which may be revised or amended from time to time by the Selectboard:
- 4.1. The cemetery commission shall advise the Selectboard regarding the condition, preparation, and maintenance of cemeteries. (Town Charter, Section 15 (b)(5)(B))
- 4.2. The town clerk shall, under the direction of the cemetery commissioners, ensure that cemetery lots are properly laid out and that sale of lots is properly conducted. (Town Charter, Section 15 (b)(5)(C))
- 4.3. The cemetery commissioners shall issue and update regulations regarding cemetery use, interment, and burial fees. (Town Charter, Section 15 (b)(5)(D)) Such regulations must be consistent with state law and shall not restrain a person in the free exercise of his or her religion as to the burial of the dead. Such regulations must be recorded in the Town Clerk's Office.
- 4.4. Submit an annual report to Selectboard by December 30th of each year.
- 4.5. Submit a budget for the upcoming fiscal year by November 1st of each year. Budget should include all expenses, revenues, requested funding from the town, and capital projects or equipment etc.
- 4.6. Proceeds from the sale of lots must be paid into the Town treasury, but kept in a separate account to be used solely for the care, maintenance and improvement of the burial grounds.
- 4.7. One Board member, appointed by the Cemetery Commission for this purpose, may grant or convey lots in the name of the town. The deeds of these lots must be recorded in the office of the Town Clerk.
- 4.8. The Commissioners may also accept legacies, bequests and gifts whose proceeds, along with the proceeds of any sales of lots, must be used to improve the grounds of the cemetery and shall be reported to the Town as part of the annual report.
- 4.9. The Commissioners must keep the fences that surround public burial grounds in good repair.

- 4.10. Recruit and coordinate volunteers for repair and maintenance work.
- 4.11. Repairs, maintenance, and improvements that cannot be completed through volunteer efforts will be completed by the Town Department of Public Works employees as time and budget permit.

Williston Selectboard

Terry Macaig

Chris Roy

Jay Mickeyd

Jefflehrs

Debbie Ingram

Received and Recorded this 18 day of January, 2012.

Kathy Smardon, Assistant Town Clerk

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