

MEMORANDUM

TO: William T. Lichter, Village Manager

FROM: David A. Hulseberg, AICP, Assistant Village Manager

DATE: June 7, 2007

SUBJECT: Lombard Cemetery

BACKGROUND

Lombard Cemetery, located on Main Street between Washington Boulevard and Lilac Lane, has been used as a burial ground since 1851. It has been used as a final resting-place for many of Lombard's founders and best-known residents.

In 1864, Reuben and Anna Mink conveyed the land to DuPage County "for the benefit and use of the Babcocks Grove Cemetery Corporation." Josiah Lombard acquired the property in 1870 and laid it out as a cemetery. The first Lombard Cemetery Association was formed in 1874 and incorporated in 1880. The Association oversaw improvements including the construction of a storage shed, drainage improvements, and walkways until its dissolution in 1968.

A survey from the summer of 1975 notes that the cemetery was in good condition. However, as time passed the Village began receiving complaints from nearby residents regarding the condition of the cemetery and a cleanup was organized as part of 1991's Pride Week.

Lombard Cemetery Association re-incorporated in 1991 with several descendants of the original Association members now serving as its Directors. This group of volunteers is now solely responsible for the upkeep of this highly visible location.

RECENT ACTIVITY

The Association members are now largely retired, and some no longer live in the Lombard area. To ensure continuity of care and maintenance of this important site, staff has taken action to allow the Village of Lombard to assume maintenance activities for the cemetery.

Illinois statutory law contains guidelines for the control and ownership of cemeteries by municipalities, as well as municipal control of abandoned cemeteries without the necessity of acquiring ownership. The Village may perform general maintenance and upkeep on the cemetery provided that a newspaper notice is published prior to the entry and cleanup of the grounds.

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RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board take the following steps:

1. Pass a resolution stating its intent to periodically enter the Lombard Cemetery as an abandoned cemetery, pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-49-1, to “cause the grounds to be cleared and made orderly.”
2. If in the future it is deemed desirable by the Board, the Village could enter into an agreement with either the Historical Commission or the Lombard Historical Society to oversee maintenance of and proposed improvements to the cemetery (to occur at a later date).

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