**Cemetery association looks to create website**

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WALLINGFORD — The Center Street Cemetery Association is hoping to have a website by early next year although the organization has been paying for the maintenance of a domain name since at least 2006.

Association officials are also trying to determine why money was spent on building a website but nothing was delivered.

Peter Gouveia, association president since June, declined to specify how much was spent and added that it’s being investigated by the board.

Building a website was a goal but not a priority in previous years, according to former president Jerry Farrell Jr. He’d hoped to have a website that would answer questions often fielded by a part-time cemetery employee whose primary job was maintaining the cemetery.

Around 2006, several thousand dollars were spent trying to get aerial photographs of the cemetery that could be used for an online map, Farrell said. The plan posed a technical challenge and wasn’t completed.

With current technology it’s likely more feasible, according to Farrell.

While going through old records, Gouveia said he found a $30 annual charge for ownership of the internet domain name centerstreetcemetery.org.

That Internet address doesn’t lead anywhere, but cemetery officials say there are plenty of historical documents that could be uploaded and events that could be advertised on the site.

“It’s a big piece of Wallingford’s history,” said Chris Shortell, association secretary of the cemetery.

Association minutes and information could also be put online, he said.

Most of the town’s founding fathers are buried in Center Street Cemetery, which Gouveia called the town’s “best historical museum.” Information on those buried there should be more easily available to the public, he said.

“We have a wealth of information that we could use a website to help people get a hold of,” Gouveia said. “We really feel it’s a very, very important thing to do.”

Rather than pay a company, Gouveia said he wants someone with experience building websites who will volunteer to create one for the cemetery.

“We’re hoping we have someone to come forward to do that,” he said. “We certainly want to save as much money as we can.”

The nonprofit association receives about $70,000 a year from the town. The cemetery is town-owned but operated by the association.

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