

**ONEIDA TRIBAL CEMETERY COMMUNITY MEETING NOTES**  
**DECEMBER 18, 2013 AT NHC-BCCR**  
**5 - 7:12 PM**

**COMMENTARY :**

1. DPW needs to do more with less even if Tribe is in cost containment or in dire straits.
2. Problem seems to be more with DPW management not making sure the cemetery is properly maintained.
3. In reference to not outsourcing the cemetery maintenance, statement made: there have been no lay-offs in the tribe so there shouldn't be a need to pay an outside vendor.
4. Change cemetery name to Sacred Burial Grounds, including Cemetery Law title.
5. DPW is in violation of the MOA they made with Enrollments.
6. Marking plots should not be a duty of the Enrollment staff.
7. The bottom line is there needs to be equipment purchased that meets the needs of cemetery. Need to purchase a mini excavator.
8. We need to remind ourselves to respect all persons. Recognize different levels/laws and people who are assigned the tasks to manage and oversee the cemetery.
9. We need to respectfully remind each other of our responsibilities - practice the Good Mind.
10. Offended that it appears the tribe does not want to maintain the cemetery.
11. Why do an RFP, don't agree with external vendor to take care of our sacred burial ground.
12. Tribal Members are being hollered at when concerns are addressed to BC or in other tribal group discussions.
13. A concern that "partying" is occurring on sweat lodge road or out by the sweat lodge trailer. Beer cans left lying around.
14. Thanked Dennis for his compassion in the work being performed.
15. Using vaults is not cultural component of our burials.
16. I can't have my son rest in peace with sweat lodge activity and casino dumping.
17. It shouldn't be a tribal member's job to go to Environmental or Gaming for information, you know they aren't going to get the information. Dennis Johnson stated all these concerns will be shared with the Technical Team.
18. Due to the recent GTC action regarding 7 Gens an OBC member commented the cemetery project would be pushed aside. Is this true?
19. Bob Brown should be contact person for cultural component.
20. Expressed the LOC process is not effective, it's a waste of people's time even though they take your comments but they (LOC committee) already have decided on the outcome.
21. Provide information on the flood zone (100, 500 yr.) (to whom?)
22. Would like for people to understand "our ways" and to find the "right words" to make sure no one is disrespected before continuing construction, so families aren't disrespected.

23. Identify what needs to be done when a person dies and what happens to "their" fire.
24. Where is the community and cultural components, it's not too late to observe practices e.g.: tobacco burning.
25. Need information that the casino dumping isn't affecting the "Where the Birds Nest".
26. How can we get the "off" cemetery concerns addressed such as sweat lodge road and traffic to restoration site of "Where Water birds Nest".
27. How can community members help during the entire process?
28. Will there be a Q/A document at the next meeting so we aren't asking the same questions over and over? Response: yes.
29. Identify who contacts are: BC liaison and BC Chair role?
30. Get community input for changes to Cemetery Law or Rules of Cemetery
31. Provide information on # of plots available.
32. Provide information on whether northern section can be used.
33. The presenters notified the community members that if they have questions or comments to please contact Julie Denny at 920-869-6612 or they could drop by the office. Identified this would be help the Cemetery Working Group in making sure there concerns are addressed.
34. Greg Matson should be taken off as a contact person for community; his office has more important things to take care of. Have Julie Denny be the main contact and she will filter the information upward.
35. Request clarity on OBC action taken on December 11, 2013 to include Chairman.
36. What guarantee is there to address the concerns by spring 2014?
37. How long will it take to know results of monitoring wells?
38. Will the cemetery require additional monitoring wells to be installed besides those identified today?
39. Where will the future funding come from to pay for future work that has yet to be completed?
40. Where will the water being discharged go?
41. Did the wetland pond the Tribe create or contribute to the water problem?
42. Will the water run-off from the road be corrected w/French drain tile installed?
43. What are the costs for Phase II?
44. Heard about there is thought of requiring "vaults"?
45. Heard there have been blanket burials (2-3), what is the impact of chemicals from such burials to the "Where the Birds Nest and the ground water"?
46. Are their Federal Laws that need to be complied with?
47. Who is responsible for the work being done & performing any follow-up work?
48. Will there be an alternative cemetery site?
49. Where is the communication and cultural components?
50. Can the 3 ugly Cemetery signs be removed, other cemeteries don't have these?
51. What information was received that supported lifting the moratorium?
52. Will hunting back by "Where the Water birds Nest" present problems?
53. Can people attend the working group sessions?
54. Fears that in 3-5-7 years remedies don't continue to work, what is the next plan?

55. Did we create more problems for the cemetery with the establishment of the "Where the Water Bird's Nest"?
56. What is the impact of the casino dumping to the birds as there is huge pile of tarp and plastic?
57. Is the French Drain Tile going to work, it didn't work in Louisiana? Response: we feel really confident this will work. We have confidence in Dennis Johnson's technical expertise since he has a working knowledge of this type of work all over our reservation.
58. How much will Phase II cost? Response: the scope of work hasn't been identified yet.
59. Does Dennis know this remedy will work?
60. Why isn't DPW at meeting tonight?
61. At the time of excavating, can any water in the grave be removed prior to burial?
62. Would like the original perspective on establishment of cemetery shared.
63. Cut off access beyond cemetery and find different access for sweat lodge road & different road to the "Where the Water Birds Nest" restoration site.
64. Hiring a maintenance specialist is only a short-term fix for now, The Cemetery Working Group is in discussion about identifying dedicated employees just for cemetery and/or community assistance.
65. The \$100 plot fee does not provide much cashflow for any perpetual care.
66. These Community Meetings are going to be held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.
67. Cemetery Working Group is looking "long term" for future burial needs.
68. Members can make requests to amend Cemetery Law but the LOC process has to be followed. Advised community members to contact Cheryl Skolaski, Enrollment Director to share their recommendations.
69. Cemetery Board selected the site
70. 90% of our reservation land is swamp land.
71. Cemetery Board was aware of the water table and took measures to correct it in 1988.
72. The right way to have handled things before any work was done would to have had spiritual leaders come and burned tobacco.
73. We have obligations to the land.
74. When a loved one dies our fire is disturbed.
75. Those in position and authority as leaders need to understand what is their responsibility to take care of cemetery with respect and dignity. We disrespected our people. Do your duty and take care of this. This is a sacred place and it needs to be treated as such.
76. Resources for this cemetery project are a priority and the organization is to be at our beck and call. If it is not happening, the Chairman stated he wanted to know.
77. Drain tile is placed about 7' below the lowest plot.
78. Monitoring Wells measure the effectiveness of the drain tile work.
79. Monitoring Wells are dug 10-20' deep and it will measure ground water levels and provide us with immediate data.
80. Monitoring Wells will be left in for several years.
81. Monitoring Wells will initially be read monthly.

82. When the grading is done will it affect any plots, response was no.
83. Ground water soil is wet and in different stages.
84. Has it been considered of taking the road out? Response was no.
85. Has any research been done on how the discharge water will impact surrounding areas and homes? Response: It should not impact any of the homes. Can we get that in writing?