

TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE Minutes of Meeting

Board or Commission: **Stockbridge Cemetery Commission**

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, **March 26, 2024**

Time of meeting: 10:00am

Place of Meeting: Cemetery, Stockbridge, MA 01262

Present:

Karen Marshall, Chair

Candace Currie, Vice-Chair

Pat Flinn, LHA representative

Peter Williams, at-large

Patrick White, Select Board, arrived late

Other Attendee:

Hugh Page, Highway Department Superintendent

Meeting called to order at 10:10.

1. Reviewed border hedges with Hugh. Currie noted her discussion with arborist Ken Gooch (former State forester doing work at Ice Glen). He did not recommend cutting the hedges by more than 25%; therefore, it will not be possible to bring the hedges down to the iron rails of the fence. After discussion about the hemlock hedges at the pedestrian (2) and vehicular (2) front gates of the cemetery –
 - **Marshall made a motion to remove the hemlock trees (total of 4 single or double stems) next to the two vehicular gates; 2nd by Flinn and unanimously approved by the commission.**
2. Signs: test out location, size, etc. – Currie provided a full-scale mockup of the 'Open' sign. A review for two sign locations was discussed near both vehicular gates. The Commission felt the signs could go in the location adjacent to the vehicular gate posts where the previously discussed hemlocks will be removed. The signpost may be located at or near the marble post that does not have an attached iron gate. The top of the signpost will be at 48" tall, instead of 45" tall as suggested by the designer, Pixley Sign in Pittsfield.
 - **Marshall made a motion to locate the signs opposite the gates where the hemlocks have been removed these two locations; seconded by Williams and unanimously approved by the Commission**
 - Two additional sign locations have been approved near the entrance near the Rockwell lot, and where the long driveway bends up towards Naumkeag.

- A total of 4 signs will be installed. Signs will not be installed at the two drives near the Hearse house and the garage.
 - Currie will finalize work with Pixley Sign.
3. Reviewed Leuchs' request to continue a foot high fence plot. - A request was made by the Leuchs' family to replace old marble fencing around their family lot with granite fencing as it exists at the front of the lot.
 - **Marshall made a motion to allow the Leuchs' family to enhance their lot with granite instead of marble fencing. The Commission unanimously approved this change.**
 - **Page will notify Atwood (Rich Atwood, Cemetery Consultant) of the approved change.**
 4. Checked out planting shrubs in old section, especially in stumps. Doesn't seem easy to do. Page suggested old stumps left after removing trees less than 20 years ago could be ground down to the lawn level. The stump grinding equipment will not go any deeper and it is not anticipated that this change will create more burial space.
 - **Page will get cost estimates for this work.**
 - In two areas where stumps and new plant growth are impacting adjacent monuments, the shrubs and small trees will be removed as well as the stumps will be ground down to the lawn level.
 5. Looked over Hearse house.
 - The commission is still expecting cost estimates (2) for the preservation of the Hearse House
 6. Reviewed removals of some trees and shrubs for safety and access to lots - The Commission appreciated the work of Page and Atwood that was satisfactorily completed around some of the old family lots that had very overgrown shrubs.
 - **Overgrown shrubs in the northwest border of the cemetery will be removed. Williams will provide a courtesy email to the Rockwell's about this change.**
 7. Reviewed work from Sedgwick tree falling. - It is anticipated that Atwood will repair posts and some metal railings of an old family lot adjacent to the Sedgwick cemetery where a spruce tree had fallen and done damage. Atwood will also repair the broken monuments in that family lot.
 - **Page will notify Atwood.**
 8. Reviewed size of planting around stones - Upon review of the active (where burials occur) area of the cemetery, Page agreed the current level of planting and the size and the location of the plantings are OK around monuments and markers. No change at this time will be implemented. Spring cleanup by the Highway Dept will be happening around April 15th.
 9. Reviewed new sections; what can we do to make them more graceful? - The Commission is considering other areas where there might be a cremation garden. This idea requires future discussion and possibly the hiring of a designer/landscape architect.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am

Respectfully submitted,
Candace Currie, Vice Chair