

TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE
Minutes of Meeting

Board or Commission: **Stockbridge Cemetery Commission**

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, **February 27, 2024**

Time of meeting: 10:00am

Place of Meeting: Town Offices and Zoom
50 Main Street
Stockbridge, MA 01262

Present:

Karen Marshall, Chair

Candace Currie, Vice-Chair

Pat Flinn, LHA representative (zoom)

Peter Williams, at-large

Patrick White, Select Board

Other Attendee:

Hugh Page, Highway Department Superintendent

Meeting called to order at 10:00.

1. Approval of Minutes, January 23, 2024
 - Williams motion to approve minutes with corrections, Flinn 2nd, **APPROVED**
2. CPC applications
 - \$12,870 approved for replacement fence posts
 - \$32,500 (out of \$100,000) approved for Hearse House
 - Marshall requesting new bids for Hearse House
 - Peter to speak with Canales on getting bids
 - To get something on town warrant, the deadline is mid-April
 - In CPC discussion, there was a suggestion to keep granite
 - Page will be keeping posts
3. Signs
 - Dark Green oval sign, \$695 per sign
 - Identify sign location at next meeting when on site including mockups
 - Dark green with green posts is good
 - White suggests slightly bolder with sans serif font for CEMETERY and OPEN (all caps)
 - Flinn suggests border should be wider to make it stand out better

ACTION ITEM: Currie to review Pixley Sign

4. Proposed addition to our Procedures document:
 - Have been doing, but it's not written.
 - *"All families are allowed two side-by-side 10 x 4 graves, at the next available space. Families cannot choose the space. If families choose cremation, the space can be filled with cremations until it is full."*
 - **Williams moved, Flinn 2nd , APPROVED policy change as written above**

5. Planning discussion: Trees, Shrubs, Perennials, including:
 - Planting at family lots in the ground; kinds of plants, how big an area
 - Item #4 in Procedures document; add '**herbaceous** (not woody) annuals and perennials', should become #1a.
 - **Flinn moved, Williams 2nd, APPROVED**
 - Removals of some trees and shrubs for safety and access to lots
 - Defer to next month
 - Additions? How do we add new life into the cemetery?
 - Consider different cemetery sections, old vs. the active (new) areas
 - Currie asks about planting shrubs into old areas, perhaps where the old stumps?
 - Williams strongly encourages getting professional guidance on the planting plan
 - Would BBG be willing to talk to the commission about plant needs
 - White will ask two people at BBG
 - Perhaps others (consultants) will be able to consult?
 - How do we make the newer sections look 'less industrial'?
 - What to do with Hemlock Hedges around cemetery
 - Review with Hugh on the site visit
 - White volunteered to reach out to Ken Gooch (retired head of forestry for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation who is working on Ice Glen) re: hemlock
 - Perhaps others (consultants) will be able to consult?
 - Williams shared an image of a Rockwell painting showing the hedges only as tall as the top rail, which was probably the original intent.
 - Currie pointed out this may take a few years to find the proper answer to the hedges, she suggests one option might be to open a wide entry area; remove hedges between the vehicles gates to improve safety.

° Hedges removed at the family lot and on the 20th of February, Atwood, the Leuchs, requesting at their expense to continue / replace what they currently have; a one-foot high fence and post that outlines the family plot; not voted.

° Sedgwick property – a tree came down resulting in bent wrought iron rails, knocked over stones, and broken post. Page (highway dept) and Atwood (cemetery consultant) will be able to repair this type of damage.

° Commission is grateful to Page for bringing these issues to the its attention.

Motion by Williams to allow the Highway Department to repair these items as required on case-by-case basis, 2nd by Flinn; APPROVED

Next Month: March 26th the meeting is at the Cemetery starting at 10:00. There is no zoom option in March.

Adjourned at 11:03am

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am

Respectfully submitted,

Candace Currie, Vice Chair