

Stockbridge Cemetery Commission Minutes

Friday, Sept 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

In Person and via Zoom -Town Offices, 50 Main Street

Present: Karen Marshall (chair), Chris Marsden, Mike Canales, Candace Currie, Terri Iemolini, Hugh Page, and Peter Williams (Historic Preservation Commission.)

Absent: Roxanne McCaffrey, Patrick White, Chuck Cardillo.

Meeting called to order at 10:00am.

Voted to accept the minutes from 9/9/21.

Update on Laurel Hill Association representative:

At the moment there is no LHA representative to the Commission. The former representative has resigned from LHA, and was unable to find a replacement. Hilary Deely, President of LHA, was contacted, and said no one on her Board is interested, and she will look into it at some point in the future.

Update on Headstone condition assessment project:

The contract is on track to be signed on Sept 28, and Chris is identified as the town contact person the consultants will work with. If he is not available, Karen is the next contact person.

Update on work to reach families to let them know about removal of overgrown plant material:

Chris has been gathering information on how reach families, and a letter has been prepared to go out after he completes his research. Most of the plots in question haven't been visited in some time, and some families may be hard to contact. Chris feels we will be ready to some removals in Spring of 2022.

Update on clean out of tool shed:

Not a lot of progress but Hugh continues to go through items as time allows. He and Chris will meet before our next meeting to continue the process.

Continue discussion of twice a year removal of temporary pots, and other items left on monuments, and definition of permanent pots:

After discussion about permanent vs temporary, Mike suggested – for this first round of clean-up on November 1 – Hugh and the Highway Dept use their judgement on what to remove. This will give the Highway Dept a sense of how this will work. Before the Spring

clean-up on April 15, we will do a press release reminding the public this is happening twice a year, from now on.

At some point we may create an “allowable” list of pots/plantings that can remain year round, as long as they maintained. If not, we’ll pull it out. If anyone has any questions, they can start by contacting Chris, and he can bring it to the entire Commission if need be.

Karen requested that some notice go out soon, before the Nov 1st clean up. She will talk with Chris about that.

Continue discussion on current cemetery fees:

Karen tabled this discussion until a later meeting, because she has some information she wants to compile and get out to the Commission members before the discussion.

New Item:

Chris reported on a large tree limb that came down in Section 3. It did not damage any stones. Limb will be picked up soon, and the entire tree needs to come down. There is funding to take down this emergency tree.

In addition, Chris and the tree warden have also identified other trees needing work, including trimming and cabling. Major work is estimated to cost \$20,000 in the future. Funding will need to be identified.

Candace asked for an update on identifying the missing burial records from the past 5 years. Chris found approximately 90 unrecorded burials, and managed to track down all but 20-30 records. He is continuing to work on those. About 15 of those remaining took place at St. Joseph’s. Chris will also work to identify those when he finishes with Town Cemetery records.

Next meeting is Tuesday, October 26th, at 10am at the Town Offices and via Zoom.

Adjournment at 10:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Marshall, *Chair*