

TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE

Stockbridge Cemetery Commission

Stockbridge Cemetery Commission Minutes

Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Present:

Karen Marshall, Chair

Candace Currie, At-large

Roxanne McCaffrey, Select Board

Patrick White, Select Board

Hugh Page, Superintendent, Highway Dept.

Pat Flinn, LHA representative

Guest:

Peter Williams, Historical Commission

Meeting called to order at 10:02am.

• **Approval of Minutes:** February 2022 Minutes Approved

• **Action items from past month**

1. Mike unavailable, so his action items held until next meeting.
2. Chair reported she will contact funeral homes about change in Cemetery Long-Term care fees.

• **Spring Clean-up/Summer maintenance**

No string trimmers, mow only once or twice a year, regular mowing along driveways and under exterior hedges. Agreed to have sign explaining what we're doing and why.

[Font and Color (black letters on white background) of new town signs will be used for the new sign at the cemetery with the hours that the cemetery is open.]

Report from consultants also suggests no idling of 2-stroke engines near marble monuments due to potential of exhaust soiling the marble monuments. No herbicides or pesticides are already part of Highway Dept policy.

Page confirmed that April 15 is the next temporary pot/plant material clean up.

Page asked about repairs to cemetery garage, to make it functional: left garage door needs replacing, sill underneath needs repair, water and electric should be brought to building, building needs painting. Mike Canales and Page will work out approximate cost.

Discussion on how to fund. White expressed need for funds to cover emergency work without having to go before Town Meeting only once a year. McCaffrey suggested we set up sub-account in Cemetery budget as rainy day fund. This fund would be “trickle fed” every year, and build up to cover these kind of expenses. Chair will discuss with Mike Canales.

General agreement this type of work should be part of the regular cemetery budget. Presently the Cemetery budget is around \$30,000; however, around \$20,000 of that budget goes towards salaries.

• **Assessment of remaining space in town Cemetery**

Notes from meeting with Rich Atwood. Agreed to have him submit proposal on cost of mapping out remaining spaces in current new cemetery.

Discussed idea of moving part of road that creates oval section to cover private sewer line, to make other spaces more available. Agreed that Mike would review location of sewer lines and report back. Page supports idea of moving road.

Chair has asked Atwood for proposal of what it would cost to do mapping, layout, and separately, road relocation. Commission will review sewer line issues and that proposal at a later meeting.

Sandy Soil Removed from Graves

Atwood requested of Marshall a location to place the interment fill (sandy soil removed from a grave that is displaced by a casket and does not go back into the grave); Page will speak to Atwood to review location.

Motion:

White moved ‘to embrace the pile’ – allowing an interment fill pile to be located somewhere on the cemetery property.
2nd by Marshall; APPROVED.

• **Policy for cemetery tours**

It was agreed that public cemetery tours apply for a permit with the Cemetery Commission. Limiting groups to no more than 50 was discussed, as was not allowing any tours after dark. Who in town needs to be notified of public tours was also discussed; include Chief of Police, Facilities Manager, whoever is doing burials, Highway Department.

Chair agreed to write draft of policy, and proposed a form for people to fill out who are publicly announcing a cemetery tour:

Organization or Group
Contact Name, Phone, and Email
Date
Time

Notification goes to burial consultant (Atwood), highway department, fire chief, facilities manager.

Currie volunteered to review, Flinn volunteered to turn into a digital form, and White volunteered to turn digital form into something that can be filled out on-line. White requested Town Council review policy when done.

Chair asked about how to get new policy out, once done. Discussed putting it on Town website, doing a press release, and having Select Board announce it at a meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 10:54

Action Items

1. **Mike** and **Hugh** will consult to estimate cost of work on Cemetery garage.
2. **Karen** will write draft of tour policy, **Candace** will review.
3. **Hugh** and Rich **Atwood** will decide where extra soil will be stored.

Next Meeting: **Tuesday April 26, 2022 Hybrid Meeting**