

## TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE Minutes of Meeting

Board or Commission: **Stockbridge Cemetery Commission**

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, **October 24, 2023**

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

Peter Williams, at-large

Patrick White, Select Board

Attendees:

none

Prior to the meeting, commission members met Hugh Page at 9:15 to 9:55 at the Cemetery for review of the issues that require input from the commission. Those items are:

### GARAGE

- Roof sway indicating some shoring up is required
- Probable new asphalt shingles needed if roof is fixed
- Improved toilet facilities (has been for seasonal use only, and will continue to be)
- Improved electrical line, in the past it had been on a meter connected to an adjacent house. A new meter for the garage would need to be installed.
- Stubbing out for gas line while the trench is open for electrical work; a Modine heater could be used in the future, if heat is desired
- Wooden clapboards / sill of the garage is on the ground; to be corrected

### HEARSE HOUSE

- Page opened the hearse house that is currently being used as a storage shed.
- Williams to forward a report to commission members related to this historic structure. A decision to preserve it, or not, needs to be made in partnership with the historic commission.

### FENCE POSTS

Page identified posts for possible replacement:

- 1 granite post at the corner of Church and Main streets
- 2 granite posts on Main adjacent to granite corner
- 3 marble posts that have repairs and/or are chipped

### TREES

- Page identified one large spruce tree in the northwest corner of the cemetery that has been struck by lightning and will be taken down due to safety issues. Page has contracted with Burdick Tree LLC; they will use a bucket truck that must be set up from a neighbor's property.

Meeting called to order at 10:06 (in the Community Room instead of the Select Board room due to the lack of video equipment in the Select Board room).

### 1. Approval of Minutes

**Motion by Currie to approve September minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Flinn; APPROVED with two minor corrections identified by Flinn.**

### 2. Site Visit Discussion

- There was general consensus that the commission should take a comprehensive approach rather than making incremental changes without the big picture mapped out. While there was not agreement on how to move forward with getting the big picture mapped out, there is agreement on a couple items: replacing fence posts, fixing garage.
- Replacement Fence Posts
  - 1 granite post at the corner of Church and Main streets \$2200 per post
  - 2 granite posts on Main adjacent to granite corner \$1900 per post
  - 3 marble posts that have repairs and/or are chipped
  - Total fence posts cost as of June 2023 cost pricing is \$9,800.
  - Grand Total costs of 1 corner post plus 5 fence posts is **\$11,700**

**Motion by White to replace posts identified above, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Flinn; APPROVED**

- Items for repair and improvement as listed under GARAGE on page 1. Mowers are stored in the Cemetery Garage, however, they are also used to mow other turf areas in town. Funds from the General Fund rather than a cemetery budget may be used. The commission understands that these repairs will need to go to town meeting in spring 2024. Town Administrator Mike Canales previously indicated these will be capital improvements.

**Motion by Williams to recommend that repairs and improvements as identified by Page be made to the Cemetery Garage, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Flinn; APPROVED**

### 3. Preservation Inc. Update

- Marshall report two resetting workshops for the highway dept are schedule for spring and fall 2024. White has requested that Marshall determine if there is a how-to manual or perhaps a how-to video that could be included. The commission determined a video would be great and

setting aside funds for a videographer could be included in another meeting so as to not delay today's vote.

**Motion by Williams to spend \$33,800 already approved and appropriated in 2023 for the resetting workshops; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marshall; APPROVED**

- a. Document gravestone inscriptions (to be completed by Preservation Inc and preservation associate in December 2023)

**Motion by Williams to spend \$16,200 already approved and appropriated in 2023 for the inscription documentation; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marshall; APPROVED**

- b. Next cleaning workshop for the spring has not been scheduled yet
- c. Phase 3 and 4 of the Sergeant Tombstones  
Discussion on the use of the granite curbing instead of marble legs per the recommendation of Preservation Inc is the best approach for maintaining integrity of the table stone.

**Motion by Williams to use the granite curbing recommendation to support the Sergeant table stones; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Flinn; APPROVED**

- d. As a result of the less expensive solution of granite curbs instead of recreating marble legs, Marshall believes there are funds left over out of the \$42,000 CPC funds. She will find out how that money can be used? She would like to see the 3<sup>rd</sup> table stone adjacent to the Sergeant table monuments lifted out of the earth as well.
- 4. Cemetery Commission on Town Website
    - a. Marshall reported that Preservation Inc report will be available from the Cemetery Commission page under a REPORTS menu.
    - b. Further discussion on how to share documents between members and for future searching were discussed. White provided details on how this could happen. To be reported on at our next meeting.
  - 5. Stone Cleaning Next Steps
    - a. Discuss buying D/2 and equipment for volunteers for monthly cleaning or workshops/days
    - b. Marshall would like the Highway Department, along with mowing, to spray headstones with D/2, this process will speed up the cleaning.
    - c. Will talk with Page to determine if backpacks need to be purchased and with Canales at next meeting to determine which funds will be used.
  - 6. 'Open' Signs for Cemetery
    - a. Williams shared images of signs around town.
    - b. No decision was made on materials or font, although Flinn will follow-up with Ghi Sign (who did the Laurel Hill signs).

7. Agenda items to be discussed at our next meeting:

a. Follow up:

- i. Signs (Flinn)
- ii. Presentation (from White) of data/information from Preservation Inc  
Assessment report

8. **Next meeting November 28.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:27am

Respectfully submitted,  
Candace Currie, Vice Chair