

Stockbridge Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

Friday, Sept 8, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Present: Karen Marshall (chair), Chris Marsden, Roxanne McCaffrey, Patrick White, Mike Canales, Terri Iemolini, (Town Clerk), Hugh Page (Highway Dept) and Peter Williams (Historic Preservation Commission.)

Absent: Lionel Delevingne, LHA representative; Chuck Cardillo, Select Board, Candace Currie, At Large member.

Call to Order: Karen called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

Voted to accept the minutes from 7/2/21.

Vendor proposals for condition assessment of headstones.

The town received two proposals. The highest was \$42,000; the lowest was \$23,500. After discussion, the Commission voted to go with the lower bid. Chris and Mike will handle the next step of the contract and getting the work going as soon as possible.

Management and removal of overgrown plant material inside the cemetery.

Discussion of problems of overgrown plant material. Chris circulated photos of seven specific areas that need work. It was agreed that the Commission supports this clean-up. Efforts will be made to contact the families of these plots to let them know the work will be happening, and to direct any questions or concerns to the Commission. A time limit for response will be included. The Highway Dept will schedule the work once contact has been established with the families. The work will not happen until next April, to give families time to respond if they need to.

Set up twice a year removal of temporary pots, and other items left on monuments.

As per town bylaws, the Highway Dept can remove temporary pots, plants, and other items. This is not something that has been done much over the past few years, and needs to be reinstated. Chris Marsden, Manager, suggested a twice year clean-up: November 1, and April 15. Notice of this will go on the town website and also in a press release. This was approved by the Commission.

A discussion about how to define temporary vs. permanent planters led to some questions. Definition of permanent planters will be discussed at the next meeting.

Maintenance of gravel driveways.

Since the Highway Dept no longer uses pesticides in the cemetery, it was agreed that some short green plant material will grow up in parts of driveway not driven on. The Highway Dept will monitor to make sure these don't get too tall, or end up obscuring the gravel drives. The Commission supports this approach.

Clean out of tool shed.

The Commission approved of Hugh, Mike, and Chris working together to clean out the tool shed, identify what can be used and what should be declared as surplus. In addition, they will make a list of needed repairs to the building.

Monthly Cemetery Commission meetings.

It was agreed that the Commission will now meet monthly, on the 4th Tuesday of the month, at 10am.

Review current cemetery fees.

There was a discussion of our fees, what they are, where they go in the town accounts, and whether we should charge at all. It was agreed to continue this at our next meeting.

Current state of burial records over the past four years.

Chris updated the Commission on his work to fill in some missing burial records. He's making progress and has about one-quarter found. He'll continue working on that and has confidence the records will be updated.

Next meeting is Tuesday, September 28th, at 10am at the Town Offices and via Zoom.

Adjournment at 11:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Marshall, *Chair*