

TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE

Stockbridge Cemetery Commission Minutes

Tuesday, Tuesday, July 26, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.
Town Offices, 50 Main Street. In Person and via Zoom.

Present:

Karen Marshall, Chair
Candace Currie, At-large
Patrick White, Select Board
Pat Flinn, LHA representative
Mike Canales, Town Administrator
Terri Iemolini, Town Clerk

Guests:

Peter Williams, Historical Commission
Roxanne McCaffrey, former Select Board member

Meeting called to order at 10:10am.

Approval of Minutes: May 2022 Minutes Approved

Following Up...

Signs for Open Cemetery Hours

To be completed for August meeting,

Private sewer line running through Cemetery

Canales will meet with Town Water & Sewer (Tony) to discuss options and ask him to come to August meeting.

Tree Warden review of Cemetery trees

To be completed. Ask tree warden to review tree root conditions and the impact on headstones and markers; tree warden to review those trees that may be a public safety issue.

Work on Cemetery Garage

Work in progress on the garage; cleaned up and replaced door.

Public Tour Policy Form

Flinn's versions of the procedures and submission form has been approved with agreed upon changes that include:

Groups activities are allowed during open hours

Submission email address will be added to submission form:

cemeterycommission@stockbridge-ma.gov or bring to Town Clerk

Chair and Vice-Chair of Cemetery Commission

Karen Marshall nominated and approved as Chair

Candace Currie nominated and approved as Vice Chair

Protection of Historic Stones

- Preservation Consultants, Inc (PCI) agreed to act as consultants per an email received by chair and town manager on the preservation work (cleaning and repairing monuments) to be completed in the historic sections of the cemetery.
- Discuss merits of training volunteers to clear monuments vs. hiring professionals to do the job. No decision was made.
- Discuss planting of thyme around stones to limit the mowing of grass required around the historic marbles. The idea was to transplant thyme rather than seed it, which will take time to grow in. Transplanting thyme will still take time to fill out, but it is possible especially as thyme is already successfully growing in the area.

Cemetery By-law (Article V) Discussion

- Began discussion of bylaws. White noted that Article VI states that bylaws may only be changed at the annual town meeting, not at a special meeting.
- Item 1.1 about the number of commission members and from what departments they come was a hot topic. Reducing the number of members from 9 to 5 would ensure an easy quorum to attain.
- White argued for keeping the Laurel Hill Association representation on the cemetery commission for historic purposes. Flinn currently fulfills that role.
- No decisions made re: wording of by-law or number of members
- It might make sense to have 'alternates' willing and able to step in and vote when a quorum is not in attendance.

Meeting Adjourned 11:15

For next month Following Up...

Mockup of Signs of Hours of Operation
Private sewer line running through Cemetery/Tony
Tree Warden review of Cemetery trees
Update on Progress on Cemetery Garage
Tour Policy – Update on Website?

Next Meeting: Tuesday August 23, 2022 10:00 am Hybrid Meeting