

TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE

Stockbridge Cemetery Commission Minutes

Tuesday, Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.
Town Offices, 50 Main Street. In Person and via Zoom.

Present:

Karen Marshall, Chair
Candace Currie, Vice-chair, At-large
Patrick White, Select Board (via zoom)
Pat Flinn, LHA representative
Hugh Page, Highway Superintendent

Meeting called to order at 10:05 am.

Approval of Minutes: August 2022 Minutes Approved

Following Up...

Signs for Open Cemetery Hours

Currie brought mockups for discussion and commission decided on 'Cemetery Open Dawn to Dusk' in an oval format. Currie to prepare PDF for Page who will ask a sign maker (vendor that town uses) to prepare 5 signs and Hugh will install them on black posts.

Currie also suggested educational panels for the historic section that might include a map of the area that is being cleaned as well as historic precedent for a reduction in mowing the grass. This panel could be similar in style to what Laurel Hill Association has installed at the rostrum, which reads like five pages from a book with each page on a different topic.

Tour policy

No tours requested

Incident in Old Section

No additional update on incident.

String Trimmers

The guards for string trimmers that may reduce stone damage have not been ordered. Local Lee vendor Meadow Farms was identified as a possible source. Page will continue to look for them. If no string trimmers with guards available next season, Commission will revisit mowing policies for Old Section.

Request for Burial from a Former Town Resident

Resolved by Marshall and Cemetery Consultant. It was approved.

Preservation Work Historic Stones

Cleaning of stones began with Preservation Inc (PI) and several volunteers over the course of two weeks in mid-October. Everyone should check out the progress. More workshops next spring. Come join in the fun and volunteer to get a little dirty.

PI also cleaned the table stones of Stockbridge Founders, John Sergeant and his wife, and removed plant material growing over them. They found that stones had shifted to the right when they lost their footings. A shallow excavation around the perimeter of the stones found possible material which might be part of an original footing. They recommended going to Phase 2 of their proposed restoration plan.

Phase 2 will carefully lift each stone, clean the undersides, probe the ground under each slab for traces of missing legs, and finally, place the slabs on temporary, horizontal timber supports on adjacent ground and protect them from the weather.

Commission discussed and approved expenditure of \$24,500 to PI to do Phase 2.

By-law Revisions

1.1 Committee makeup

Flinn proposed we begin our review with 1.2 instead of 1.1. Agreed. 1.1 to be discussed at next Cemetery Commission meeting.

1.2 Resident or taxpayers rights to free plot...

Discussed changing language from *Residents or Taxpayers to Residents or Homeowners*. Marshall to speak with Canales and/or town counsel.

Discussed changing *assisted living or nursing facilities* to *life care*.

1.3 The rights of persons...

No change.

1.4 Notwithstanding any other provision...

Discussed and agreed Commission does not understand what this by-law covers. Marshall will check with Town Counsel.

1.5 Eligible persons entitled to be interred in next available...

No change.

1.6 All monuments, markers, boundary markers...

Currie proposed that this bylaw be converted into three rules that require a vote by the cemetery commission to change or overrule something, but that it should not be a by-law requiring town meeting vote. Currie will draft new rules for review at the next meeting.

1.7 Monuments and head stones...

General thought was to convert this by-law to a rule also and it may require input from the cemetery consultant. Currie to draft replacement language.

1.8 Each plot must be marked with corner markers...

Possibly another new rule, or maybe a job description item of the Cemetery Consultant.

Section 2 Interment Regulations and Section 3 Financial Regulations

Postponed until next meeting

Idea for planting thyme in Old Section

Page suggested Commission find local group to plant thyme around oldest headstones in the spring. He pointed out that the budget usually has some labor money leftover.

Marshall suggested Greenagers. She will follow up on that.

Meeting Adjourned 11:00

Agenda Items for next meeting

Review of Bylaws and Drafted Rules

Items in the metaphorical 'Parking Lot'.

Green burials

Status of private sewer line running through Cemetery/Tony

Tree Warden review of Cemetery trees

Update on Progress on Cemetery Garage

Next Meeting: **Tuesday November 22, 2022 10:00 am Hybrid Meeting**