

Cemetery Commission Minutes, July 7, 2010

Present: Richard Olson, Chair, Sebastian Araugo, Mark Collins, Greg Howe, Tom Myers

Absent: Astrid Berg [excused]

Guests: Rick Wald [for B. Rogers], Sharon Lynn, David Gardiner, Bryan Carlson, Dana Farris, Tony Lemme, Lynn Martin, Linda O'Brien

Mr. Olson called the meeting to order at 2:03pm, in the temp. Town Hall conference room.

The Minutes of the meeting of June 7 were approved as presented.

1. Cemetery Expansion: Wald presented a new plan from the Rogers office. There would appear to be a possible additional 144 5' by 10' grave sites. A new problem was discovered: the buried electric/phone line from Alden St. to the Cemetery Office. This will have to be relocated – either in the existing walk-way or NW of the proposed expansion. Final placement to be determined through negotiation with MESA. Motion: Authorize Rogers to negotiate with NSTAR/Verizon for costs to move the buried lines, and present a final plan to MESA. [passed 5 to 0]
2. Burial moratorium: discussion included number of lots sold since the moratorium – Lemme says 4/5. Decision not to lift moratorium – but exemptions for immediate use.
3. Cemetery documentation: Farris & Martin presented an early draft of an exciting new cyber map of cemetery property [excluding Winthrop St.] which provides location, name and death date for all burials – biographical data to be expanded later. Then followed an explication of the new documentation process by Gardiner. This is based on a “Cemetery Turn-over Receipt,” to be managed through the Town Clerk’s office, with immediate pass-through to Finance & Tony Lemme.
4. Winthrop St. Cemetery: There has been a turn-over at Americorps – we need to request a place on the Americorps schedule for Nov. to March. Gardiner will facilitate for the Town, and Myers will organize from our end. The focus will be extraction of volunteer trees, esp. wild cherry.
5. Dangerous grave markers: Lemme repeated his previous warning about unstable grave markers which could fall on people or animals. He will work with a monument co. contact. Who pays? Does Ghost Tours represent a liability problem?
6. Funds: Linda O'Brien presented yet another new, improved accounting spreadsheet. This does seem clearer than previous iterations. [7/6/10, 3:17pm]. The Town Manager will initiate discussion with Town Counsel – to be introduced by Olson & Collins, supported by documentation already provided to the Town Manager. Primary questions: Perpetual Care Trust Fund issues & money for/from the General Fund.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Greg Howe, clerk pro-tem/ Next meet. Aug.2, T.H.