

Minutes of 2/16/22 Cemetery Commission
7:00 PM
Remote Access Meeting with Zoom
(Under Emergency Order for Pandemic)
Approved Meeting of 3/21/22

Members present: Walter Tibbetts (WT), Susan Millinger (SM), Dina Stander (DS). Guest Janice Stone. Meeting called to order at 7:01

1. Minutes of the January 19 meeting: Motion to accept was made, seconded, and unanimously approved by a roll call vote.
2. Further Discussion of Guidelines for Family-Directed Funerals: The document continues in process. DS plans to meet with a funeral director to learn what funeral directors have prepared for family-directed funerals. The Guidelines the Cemetery Commission expects to develop will need to be directed to families, cemetery commissions, and funeral directors.
DS plans to meet with Barre Cemetery Commissioner Elizabeth Martin to learn about Barre's green burial rules.
3. Discussion of lot pricing: All agree that the two levels of pricing, for residents and non-residents will continue, noting that our prices are significantly lower than those of neighboring towns. The two categories need redefinition to reflect the changes the Commission has made in identifying who may buy a lot in Shutesbury's cemeteries. The category of non-residents now refers to people eligible to purchase a lot because of their connections with the town: people who had previously resided in town, had family members resident in town, or were descended from people who had been residents. DS will draft the new list and send it to WT and SM for discussion at the March meeting.
4. Volunteer Spring clean-up day: Tentatively set for April 23, with a back-up date of May 7. WT will talk with the groundskeepers, both to invite them to a Cemetery Commission so that they can meet the new Commissioners, and also to find what their goals are for Volunteer Spring Clean-up. WT says equipment (wheelbarrows, rakes, loppers, safety glasses) can be provided, though people could also bring their own rakes. Volunteers must sign the waiver forms the Town will provide.
5. Headstone cleaning and repair workshop: DS has attempted to contact TaMara Conde of Historic Gravestone Restoration to see what her availability is for a workshop, and to talk with her with her about a public presentation before that to attract interest in the workshop.
 - a. In order to continue with the work of restoring headstones, the Cemetery Commission needs to get on the schedule of the Community Preservation Community in order to apply for CPA-funding. Applications are due by December. The Cemetery Commission may want to explore a recurring proposal.
6. Unanticipated Items.

- a. DS has been contacted by a Shutesbury resident who wants to donate his remains to the University of Massachusetts, but needs a back-up plan. Do we have a procedure by which this person's estate could sell the lot back to the Commission if it was not needed? It was recognized that the Commission needs regulations with procedure for different kinds of resales to the Cemetery Commission or transfers. These would include a sale in the life of the purchaser and a sale after death by the estate of the deceased.
 - b. Guest Janice Stone wanted information about family-directed funerals; DS explained what was involved. Stone also wanted to know the current status of vaults; WT explained the legal position in the State (vaults are not necessary) and the Board of Health's consequent position: as long as the Commission is content with no requirement for vaults, the Board is also. In the Agenda for the next meeting: change what the new Regulations say about vaults.
- 4 Date for next meeting: Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 6 p.m..
- 5 Adjournment at 7:50 p.m. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously carried by roll call vote.

Submitted by

Susan Millinger

Cemetery Commission secretary

