

Minutes of 11/16/22 Cemetery Commission
6:00 PM
Remote Access Meeting with Zoom
(Under Emergency Order for Pandemic)
Approved at the Meeting of January 7, 2023

Members present: Walter Tibbetts (WT), Dina Stander (DS), Susan Millinger (SM). Meeting called to order at 6:04 p.m.

- 1) Minutes of the October 25 meeting: Motion to accept the Minutes of October 25 as corrected was made and seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved by a roll call vote.
- 2) New burials and lot sales: There was one burial and no lot sales since the October meeting. Mrs. Howard Kinder was buried in the traditional part of the cemetery. There was no time to contact the groundskeepers, so WT himself cleaned up the area, cutting back brush, blowing leaves, etc.
- 3) Board of Health Green Burial Meeting: The meeting concerned green burials in the Jewish Community of Amherst (JCA) cemetery on Leverett Rd., west of West Pelham Rd. An abutter had written asking whether their well might be contaminated by green burials there, since the JCA seemed to be burying close to her well. The abutter, two members of the Board of Health (BoH), Sen. Jo Comerford, and DS as liaison from the Cemetery Commission attended the meeting. At its conclusion, the BoH agreed to come up with a general policy about green burials and show it to the Cemetery Commission before the BoH votes on it. It is clear that further investigation of the question of the distance of green burials from neighboring wells is needed. The Cemetery Commission may seek to meet with the BoH after the beginning of the new year.
- 4) CPA Grant Application: There was a brief discussion of the Determination of Eligibility form. The Commission plans to ask for \$10,000. A workshop will not be included in the application, not will tree stump work. SM will send the draft to WT for final revision and submission to the Community Preservation Committee.
- 5) Inventorying Cemetery documents: It was decided that if the Conference Room of Town Hall will be available, the Commission will hold its next meeting there to inventory its documents there. DS volunteered to check with the Town Clerk.
- 6) Other Unfinished Business:
 - a. More on the questions asked at the end of the meeting of 10.25.22 about the green/natural burial area: On the subject of the size and type of gravestones to be allowed. It was agreed that stones must be of a size that does not require a base. The question: what's the largest stone that does not require a base? Natural stones big enough to be stable without assistance would also be acceptable.
 - b. Annual Report: It was agreed to use the terminology "green/natural" in referring to burials and the section of the Cemetery.

- 7) Items not anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting: People will need a way to access WT about purchasing lots when he is away.
- 8) Date for next meeting: Wednesday, December 21, 2022, at 6 p.m.
- 9) Adjournment at 7:12: A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously carried by roll call vote.

Submitted by *Susan Millinger*
Cemetery Commission secretary

