

Cemetery Department
Minutes of Regularly Scheduled Meeting – August 15, 2022

Present:

James Burlingame, Supt.
Kristen Russell-May, Member & Chair
Donna Neylon, Member & Vice Chair & Clerk
Willis Bond, Member

Absent/Excused:



Public Present:

Russell Eastman, Cemetery Employee

NOTE: *The minutes below reflect the order of the agenda and may not be the order taken during the meeting.*

Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Kristen called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm in the Cemetery Garage at Westridge Cemetery and entertained the motion to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2022 as amended; Willis so moved and Donna seconded; it was so voted. Willis then initialed the minutes to indicate that they were approved.

Signing of Deeds:

There were two deeds presented:
• Transfer of ownership from Henry Brogna to Brenda J. & Gordon F. Powers, III (no charges): Section D, Row C, lot 1 on the North side of Dexter Road at Westridge Cemetery.
• Fabriola Cesar; Section C-1A, lot 1, on the North side of North Road at Westridge Cemetery. \$400 for the lot and \$250 for Perpetual Care.

Monthly Burial Count:

July: 1 full burial (infant)
August (to date): 4 cremation burials with two additional cremation burials scheduled for later this week.

Review of prior month's expenses: (NOTE: all purchases were from the Expense Account unless otherwise noted)

Warrant Date 7/12/2022:

Amazon Business (parts & supplies)	\$83.71
Amazon Business (parts & supplies)	\$124.27
James Burlingame (mower wheels)	\$46.98
James Burlingame (trimmer guard)	\$33.57

Warrant Date 8/02/2022:

Grainger (label tape, two rolls)	\$29.28
Amazon Business (supplies, trimmer carb 2)	\$127.30
James Burlingame (Shindaiwa blower tube extensions)	\$14.29
James Burlingame (work clothing, less sales tax)	\$232.77
James Burlingame (work shoes, 2 pair, less sales tax)	\$109.97

Warrant Date 8/10/2022:

Ready Refresh (bottled water)	\$26.35
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Kristen entertained the motion to ratify the payments made on behalf of the Cemetery Commissioners; Willis so moved and Donna seconded; it was so voted.

Our Expense account balances: \$859.18 spent with \$13,140.82 remaining.

Old Business:

Continued discussion of incident that took place on October 5th burial service in Westridge Cemetery:

In review: The court date (Dudley District Court) has been set for a trial/hearing which, hopefully, will result with the Town (Cemetery Department) being reimbursed for the damages done to the asphalt during above incident.

Mr. Eastman, who will attending the Hearing on Thursday of this week with Donna, attended the meeting. The Board and Mr. Eastman discussed our expectations for that meeting with the Clerk Magistrate.

Kristen had located and sent to Donna, a copy of three videos that were put on Facebook by Mr. Eastman's nephew after the October 5th burial and Dona will have them on her phone to show the Clerk Magistrate, if given a chance.

Donna spoke of her concern of possible repercussions, both personal and to the cemetery, as a result of testifying in this matter but she also stated that this must be done. It was agreed that she would evaluate the situation and how she feels following the hearing and if necessary, contact the local Police Department.

She brought up the damage to the grass ("donuts") in the cemetery on the approximate one-month anniversary of the October 5th burial. The Commission did not accuse anyone of this vandalism nor mention it to anyone but afterwards Mr. Nardone, Jr. had said to Jim something to the effect that "I suppose you're going to blame that on me, too". This incident and the fact that we needed a police presence at the next funeral of a member of this family is what caused her to be uneasy about possible repercussions.

It was agreed that Donna would make a report to the other Commissioners and the Superintendent following the trial/hearing.

Continued Discussion on stone wall repair/restoration in Bay Path Cemetery:

Jim had a chance to take measurements of the stone wall that is need of repair. Our quote from Mr. Bruce Johnson was for 750 feet but Jim measured 740 feet. At this time, we are not concerned about the small discrepancy in the measurements.

Jim also measured the Town Pound which is all stone walls and has one wall that abuts our wall. His measurements were: South wall 44 feet; North wall (entrance) 44 feet, and East wall 58 feet.

The cost of the repairs to the wall, including the Town Pound's walls, would likely come to about \$150,000 once all bids are in.

Donna had written to the Historical Commission and learned that they would bring up the wall situation and possible joint grant at their next meeting but hasn't heard anything since then. Jim said that he had learned that the Historical Commission had contacted the Town's grant writer, presumably regarding writing a grant for this project. Donna will set up a meeting with the grant writer to learn if work has already begun the process of applying for a grant and help, if possible. This cemetery is on the National Register and therefore should be eligible for grants.

Continued discussion on proposed cemetery maintenance garage:

Jim reported that he has yet to contact Mr. Boria who is building a similar building in Charlton or to locate the old drawings for our garage. He will make an extra effort to do these things if we are to get the garage on the October Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Review updated Compact Excavator quotes:

The quote from Barry Equipment in Webster, MA had been revised to \$500 lower than previously bid, with a new cost of \$56,450.00.

Other bids were also received:

Second highest: Ahearn's Equipment in Spencer, MA at \$56,776.06

Highest: Milton CAT in Milford, MA at \$78,000.00

Kristen entertained a motion for Jim to turn the three bids over to the Town's Finance Director with our recommendation that the Town accept the bid from Barry Equipment; Willis so moved and Donna seconded. The motion was so voted. This equipment is scheduled to be on the Warrant for the October Special Town Meeting.

New Business:

Upcoming vacation schedule for the Cemetery Superintendent:

Jim plans to take Friday, September 16 for a vacation and then be out of town for the 16, 17, 18th. He is also planning an out-of-state vacation for October 1 through 10th and Mr. Eastman will cover for him. The Commissioners were all agreeable to this schedule.

Open forum:

Notice of "All Boards/Department/Commission/Committees Meeting":

The Selectmen have invited members of all boards to attend a meeting in the Town Hall's Senior Center on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

ATTACHMENT #1: Meeting announcement.

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting was tentatively scheduled for September 19th.

As there was no further business before the Commission, at 2:24 pm Kristen entertained a motion to adjourn, Willis so moved; Donna seconded; it was so voted.

Respectfully submitted: Donna L. Neylon, Vice Chair & Clerk

Approved by the Commission

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Attachments:

1: Meeting Announcement