

Cemetery Board of Commissioners  
Minutes  
May 11, 2021

Board met in session at 6:35 p.m. in the Arland Dirlam Chapel at Waterside Cemetery.  
Present (constituting a quorum):

Richard F. Coletti, Chairman  
Janet S. Merrill, clerk  
Rufus L. Titus

Catherine M. Kobialka, Superintendent

The Chair called the meeting of Tuesday, May 11, 2021 to order.

**MINUTES.** Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes from January 14, 2020. All in favor – unanimous vote

**DOGS IN TOWN CEMETERIES.** Anne Stevenson, 122 Front Street appeared before the board to discuss the increase in dogs being walked in our Town cemeteries. She has noticed the increasing concerns of citizens on social media. The Board discussed several of Ms. Stevenson's suggestions as follows:

Placing waste bags and barrels at entrances could ultimately promote more activity.

Giving Cemetery personnel the authority to hand out tickets would require a reclassification of their positions.

Hiring an outside contractor to patrol the cemeteries. The Cemetery Department has a very small budget and would not be able to fund an expense such as that.

The Cemetery Board has addressed these same concerns over the years. The Town Bylaw with regard to dogs in cemeteries was added to the department's Rules and Regulations. Signs stating that cemeteries are a place for quiet solace and requesting respect of same along with no dogs allowed have been posted.

**MARBLEHEAD RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM.** Superintendent Kobialka updated the board as to the progress of the Agnis tablet at Old Burial Hill. The MRJT is working with a local memorial dealer.

**FY22 CEMETERY BUDGET.** Motion made and seconded to formally approve the budget in the amount of \$ 300.00 for officials expense, \$373,947.56 for salaries, and \$26,226.00 for expenses for a total budget of \$400,473.56. All in favor – unanimous vote

**NEW VEHICLE.** At the direction of the Finance Director the Cemetery Department's new vehicle will be paid out of Perpetual Care Interest. Motion made and seconded to use Perpetual Care interest for the purchase of a Ford F350 in the amount of \$43,459.00.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.** Cemetery staff has remained safe and healthy through the pandemic.

Cleared the area next to the garages. Removed and screened all soil, removed old fencing, mulched hill, graded and seeded flat area.

Removed all bluestone and cement from Chapel stairs. Cemented landings and sealed treads.

When preparing the irrigation in the rear of the cemetery for the season found a break in the old galvanized pipe that cannot be repaired. The parts needed are no longer available. The water in the rear of the cemetery will remain off for the season. Signs will be posted. The water in the front of the cemetery is operational.

When discussing our budget for FY23 we need to address several issues that need attention which will take precedent over developing the remainder of Locust Avenue East area. The hourglass pool needs to be replaced, all buildings need new roofs, and the irrigation in the rear of the cemetery needs to be replaced. Also discussed revolving funds with regard to Sale of Lots Fund and Veterans lot revenue.

**GovHr COMPENSATION RECLASSIFICATION STUDY.** Discussion regarding the recent classification of Administrative positions. All agreed the need to discuss with the Compensation Committee.

**ADJOURN.** Motion made and seconded to adjourn. All in favor – meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

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Janet S. Merrill, clerk