

Cemetery Board of Commissioners
Minutes
February 8, 2022

Board met in session at 7:00 p.m. in the office at Waterside Cemetery.
Present (constituting a quorum):

Richard F. Coletti, Chairman
Janet S. Merrill, clerk

Catherine M. Kobialka, Superintendent

RESIGNATION: Chairman read letter of resignation from Rufus Titus which was formally submitted to the Town Clerk on November 22, 2021. Brief discussion regarding the importance of having an elected board chosen by the citizens of Marblehead. Will not appoint an interim but will wait until Town election.

MINUTES: Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes of November 2, 2021 as presented. All in favor. VOTE

BUDGET: Verbal recap of the Finance Committee meeting of 1/24/22 to reiterate written report from Superintendent. Motion made and seconded to approve the total budget amount of \$440,250.90 as voted on by Finance Committee.

Finance Committee agreed that three seasonal employees were imperative for this Department to allow four full time employees to maintain all buildings and grounds along with interring the deceased in a timely manner.

Line item for the yearly maintenance of the Cemetery software increased. Increase due to mandatory Web conversion which will be paid out of the Sale of Lots in outlays submitted for FY23.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: Theresa Collins from the Police Department has volunteered to be the location coordinator for Wreaths Across America. She has sent in the paperwork and will contact the Department with details.

ROTARY CLUB OF MARBLEHEAD HARBOR: Request from Pam Peterson to organize a volunteer spring clean-up at Old Burial Hill. Ms. Peterson was told that it could be trash clean up only. No clipping or trimming back vegetation. Becky Curran has apparently given the same instruction. They will get back to us if they are to proceed.

VETERANS LOT: Superintendent presented some changes to the Rules and Regulations with regard to the Vets Lot. Board will take the information home to look over and discuss at next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

GROUND RADAR: Discussion on the use of ground radar to see if some of the rumors about Indian and Slave burial sites in Marblehead are valid. Will try to research and revisit at next meeting.

COFFIN SCHOOL: Discussion on the use of the Coffin School. Superintendent contacted Town Planner Becky Curran and told her that the last two Town Administrators had been informed of the Cemetery's interest in the property for grave space extension. She confirmed that the property is "currently owned by the School Department and the Library will be using it while their renovation is underway. After that, the School Department may or may not declare it no longer needed for school use – when and if they do that then investigation into whether or not there is any other municipal need would be done." This will most likely not happen before 2024, allowing plenty of time for the Commission to study whether it is viable. The area is ideal due to its close proximity to Waterside but might have ledge.

MARBLEHEAD RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM: We were contacted by the MRJT yesterday to be put on the Agenda for this meeting. They were informed of our full agenda and we will include them for our next meeting in April. Initial request is to be allowed to install a sign describing the gravestone replacement that was approved last year and is in the process of being completed. The sign would have information about the gravestone and the era when Agnes lived. After brief discussion, the Board agreed that this might set unwanted precedent. Will discuss with MRJT at the next meeting.

Voted to adjourn at 8:30 PM

Next meeting April 12, 2022

Janet S. Merrill, clerk

List of documents used:

Letter of resignation sent to Town Clerk
Email report recapping FinCom meeting
Email Rotary Club of Marblehead Harbor
Vets Lot section VI of Rules and Regulations
Email correspondence with Town Planner re: Coffin School
Email correspondence with MRJT