

Brookline Cemetery Commissioners Meeting May 12, 2023

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM

Members present:

Laurie Nau-Martocci Chair

Dot Maggio - Recording Clerk

Howard Osgood - Sexton

Doug Wellman

Mike Winot

2. Changes to the agenda
None at this time

3. Review Draft Minutes

Mike Winot made a motion to accept the minutes from November 7, 2020.

Howard Osgood Seconded the motion.

Discussion - Doug Wellman was not at this meeting when the bid for the brush clean up was discussed and awarded.

A vote was called and Dot Maggio, Howard Osgood and Mike Winot approved. Laurie and Doug abstained as they were not present at the meeting on 11/7/2020. The minutes were accepted.

Laurie Nau-Martocci made a motion to accept the minutes from April 7, 2023.

Howard Osgood Seconded the motion

Discussion: Doug Wellman and Mike Winot were not at this meeting

A vote was called and Dot Maggio, Howard Osgood and Laurie Nau-Martocci accepted the minutes. Mike Winot and Doug Wellman abstained

The minutes were accepted.

4. Members of the Public
No members of the Public were present

5. Old Business

A. Update the sale price for cemetery lots

Laurie did some research on the prices at other cemeteries
Jane Douglas stated that the private cemetery in South Newfane charges \$400 per grave site which allows for one coffin or 3 Urns to be buried. There are smaller plots measuring 33 inches by 33 inches which are sold to hold only URNS at a cost of \$150 for one and \$200 for two. A flat stone is required - no headstone

Rodney Bell told Laurie that the funeral home usually adds on to their bill a fee for digging a grave. Mark Steller repaired 40 stones using funds from an endowment.

David Berry said that the private cemetery charges \$150 per lot but the rule is that 6 are sold for a total of \$750. Residents of Newfane and adjacent towns can purchase grave sites. There is an endowment funding the care of the cemetery. There is no charge for the work of the sexton as it is done by a volunteer.

Charlie Marchant of Townshend indicated that there are 17 cemeteries in town, 13 are Town owned. A fee of \$20 is charged to dig your own hole for an Urn. A casket sized plot measuring 40 inches by 10 feet is sold for \$425. A maxim of 4 urns can be buried in this type of plot. A plot measuring 40 inches by 5 feet is sold for \$277.50. Special lots measuring 30 inches by 30 inches are sold for \$300 each. Two stones per space is allowed - a head stone and a marker

\$20 is charged at the sale, \$20 to record the deed and \$50 to open the ground. There is also a fee of \$50 charged initially to go towards the endowment for perpetual care. \$575 per casket.

Installment payments are accepted by the town. The town retains the deed until payment in full is received. There are limited cremation spots left.

Doug Wellman asked about the town of Brookline taking over the Riverside Cemetery. He noted that there would not be a need for a cemetery commission then. He also asked about the Lord Appot Fund. It was \$1000 but now \$390 remains .

Laurie reviewed the 1973 fund balance - \$6,116.80

In 1982 the commissioners sold the George Asbe Fund stocks for \$2,100.45. 16 shares were held by the 1st Vermont Bank

In 1993 the Riverside Capital Improvement fund held \$1,416.77

Charlie Marchant suggested to Laurie that the town consider composing a letter with some historical information about the cemetery, where it is now and what needs to be done in the future. While an endowment is unlikely, some contributions would be helpful to offset the maintenance of the cemetery. Possibly send out a letter to everyone on the Grand List via the Tax Bill and/or to all Deed holders. Doug Wellman volunteered to write up a letter and present it at the June Meeting for review and approval. Dot will ask the SB to allow it to be included in the tax bill mailing this summer.

A brief discussion was held about saving money by hiring teenagers to do the mowing in the future. Community Service ideas. Currently Bloom Enterprises LLC is mowing every other week. Howard noted several stones are now crooked due to the large mowers he uses. Maximum size should be a 48 inch mower. Having a vendor with insurance is a norm. Laurie will speak to Tom Bloom about skipping mowing when the grass is dry and not growing during the heat of the summer.

The Riverside Cemetery has 8 grave sites per lot. Each grave is 40 inches by 10 feet. The number of available graves is unknown and should be considered as a project for the future to review. Many graves bought years and years ago may never be used. It would be difficult if not impossible to contact the owners of the old graves to see if they would be interested in donating them back to the town.

Does the Town of Brookline own the Austine Cemetery? Dot will find out.

Doug Wellman made a motion to increase the price of a cemetery grave measuring 40 inches x 10 feet to \$550. Mike Winot seconded the motion.

Discussion - it is agreed that each 40" x 10 feet grave site deed price be increased due to the cost of care. A head stone / foot stone is permitted
 A vote was called for and it passed unanimously. The price of a 40 x 10 ft lot is increased to \$550 from \$200.

Laurie Nau-Martocci made a motion to allow up to 4 Urns in each 40 " by 10 foot grave. Dot Maggio seconded the motion. Discussion. A head stone with each interred listed or a flat stone marker would be allowed.

A vote was called for and all were in favor. The motion passed allowing 4 Urns maxim in a gravesite measuring 40 inches by 10 feet with a marker or headstone.

Laurie suggested that the commissioners consider doing a walk through this summer.

Memorial Day flags are in the basement of the town hall and will be placed the week before Memorial Day.

Besides sending a letter out via the Tax Billing letter in July - other fundraising ideas include developing a cemetery tour w/ map. Mike Winot asked about the binder his mother Eloise put together with the military graves identified. Dot Maggio recalled seeing the binder and while she could not find it herself in town hall, she would ask town clerk Guy Tanza to look in the vault for it.

6. New Business

Laurie discussed researching the Christmas Wreaths Across America program. Howard Osgood said that Carl Scott may have information on this.

7. Next Meeting

June 23, 2023 at 6:30 pm at town hall. Howard noted it is weather dependent for him with Hay season in full swing by then.

Agenda suggestions:

Using Austine Cemetery for Cremation Urn Burials

Bingo at NBFDD for fundraising

Letter for mailing out with Tax bill

Town Warning Question re: Cemetery

8. Adjournment

Laurie motion to adjourn the cemetery commissioners meeting at 8:19 PM

All were in agreement