



TOWN OF MILLBURY

MEETING & AGENDA NOTICE

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
13 JAN 18 PM 2:37
MILLBURY, MASS.

DPW (Cemetery)

Name of: Board/Committee/Commission

Date of Meeting:

July 16th

Time of Meeting:

7pm

Meeting Location:

Selectman's Room

Meeting Type:

Regular

Special

Emergency

(Please Check Appropriate Box)

AGENDA TOPICS

- THE FUTURE OF THE CENTRAL CEMETERY

- WATER SYSTEM REPAIRS

- ROADWAY SYSTEM REPAIRS

- SHED REPLACEMENT

- RULES / REGULATIONS

- COST / FEES / BUDGET

- PERPETUAL CARE FUNDS

- Commissioner Recruiting

Signature of Chair Person or Clerk:

Rob M. [Signature]

This notice is in accordance with the Open Meeting Law effective July 1, 2010.

07-16-12 Cemetery Meeting

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>
ROB McNeil	DPW	508 865-9143
RICH + MARCIA LANDRY	85 miles St.	508-581-9600
Everett Janet Graham	6 Lindy St.	508-865-2596
Suzenny Pickens	8 Lundy St.	508-865-3859
Quinn K. Bunker	19 Maple St.	508-865-4560
Mary Joan Davis	2 Oakview Dr.	508-865-5006
Deborah Morgan	8 Gould St.	508 865 4816
Duluth S. Plante	42 Maple St.	508-865-6506
Gilbert Picard	77 Wheelock Ave.	508 752 0924
Ann Lewenboushi	5 Howe Lane	508-865-4985
Brian Ashmarkos	5 Millbury Terr	774-276-1281
Bernad Plute	5 CARLTON RD	508 865 0364

- Potholes in old section Reported

Perpetual Care in American Cemeteries: Working Towards a Sustainable Future

Robert D. McNeil III, P.E.

Public Works Director

Millbury, MA

American cemeteries demand our attention and respect. These unique landscapes seem naturally resistant to change. Leading a community towards sustainable practices in existing cemeteries may be the biggest challenge for public works officials yet. Regardless of your age when you die the people left behind will be faced with dealing with your remains. Can public works officials develop and manage a sustainable cemetery to accommodate our infinite cycle of death?

If we don't modify the way that we have traditionally handled our deceased, over time, even America's least populated areas will face an endless, ever expanding cemetery. To meet our current burial demands here in the United States, it is estimated that every year approximately 30,000,000 board feet of hardwoods, over 100,000 tons of steel and other metals, and 1,600,000 tons of reinforced concrete are used to create caskets and vaults for the funeral industry. Most of this material ends up in the ground as part of a traditional burial with little likelihood that it will breakdown naturally over time. Additionally, it is estimated that over 800,000 gallons of embalming fluid, which most commonly includes formaldehyde, is used annually during standard embalming procedures. (Compiled from statistics by Casket and Funeral Supply Association of America, Cremation Association of North America 2011) Current American burial practices developed out of a combination of religious preferences, immigrants' cultures and customs, and government regulation. Today only a limited number of alternatives to traditional burial are even considered acceptable in America. Although presently outside of the mainstream, ideas that are gaining traction include natural burial, burial at sea, entombment in a mausoleum, cremation with ashes preserved or scattered, and burial in a reusable grave. By understanding the cultures and religious customs that people hold sacred regarding human death

we can better understand how to build consensus to implement acceptable changes to our current practices of traditional burials.

Public works officials must not only deal with the issue of a growing population base and its possible impact on cemetery expansion, but must provide the necessary leadership to accomplish real change towards sustainability at the local level. They must act to build coalitions of community assets and staff that will produce meaningful solutions and tangible results. As cemetery stewards they must consider the three primary components of sustainability: fiscal, social, and ecological termed the Triple Bottom Line (TBL) coined in 1994 by John Elkington.

Commitment to the development of a sustainable cemetery includes considering all aspects of responsibility from the cemetery commissioners to the local funeral directors to the families of the deceased. Before public works officials can consider changes to existing cemeteries they must consider their complex origins.

Human Burials, Religious Implications, Customs and Cultures

In many communities the public works department is responsible for management of cemeteries. A far cry from its practical beginnings human burial procedures now have very different meanings that center on demonstrating a deep respect for the deceased person. Often strict religious beliefs require burial as a necessary step in pursuit of an afterlife. For these and other profoundly personal and communal reasons families and descendants of the interred often view cemeteries with a sense of reverence that can overshadow objective consideration of the need for change. (National Park Service 2011)

Religious culture concerning death and burials varies as widely across the globe as it does across centuries. Some cultures allow the decomposing body to naturally return to the Earth while others try to retard the natural deterioration process with embalming and attempt to protect the body from direct soil contact by placing it into a coffin and often times within a sealed concrete vault. Here in America, most people are unaware that only four generations ago people handled burying their own deceased family members. If we look closely at the modern Christian wake, funeral, and burial process we can see stark changes to how Americans now deal with death as compared to before the Civil War in the 1860's.

Embalming and rise of the Funeral Parlor

Embalming in America finds its roots in the Civil War. Families attempting to retrieve their loved ones' remains by train were required by railroad companies to have the body embalmed for the long rail trip home. President Lincoln's own remains endured a multi-city funeral train route that spanned thirteen days in 1865. The American public eventually warmed to embalming following the emergence of local funeral homes to handle their dead in the twentieth century. Although embalming is not required, a surprise to most Americans, the more natural appearance of the deceased is said to ease the pain of the mourning family and friends. (Cooney 2011)

Cremation and Other Alternatives to Burial

Cremation is gaining popularity as a preferred alternative to traditional burial in America. According to a 2008 statistics report by the Cremation Association of North America (CANA), the percentage of cremations performed in the United States has risen from just 14.90% in 1985 to 34.34% in 2007 and are expected to rise and hold at around 75%. When buried, cremains take up significantly less space than that of traditional burials and thus have the ability to slow the pace of land consumption within a cemetery. Many cemeteries now allow cremation burials to be placed on top of already interred full burials. Arguably the most sustainable method of cremains burial is the Invisible Niche concept. "This involve(s) putting the ashes of the deceased after cremation into degradable urns to be buried underground. The ashes will enrich the environment. After the ashes have completely decomposed, the land will be ready for more ashes. Thus, the space for cremated ashes is unlimited." (Siu 2005)

The Natural Burial process, by which a body is returned to the earth to decompose naturally in soil, has been practiced around the world for centuries. Natural burial has recently been reintroduced to the United States and is catching on in places like Ramsey Creek, GA where the first "green cemetery" was opened in 1998.

An old burial practice that has gained recent resurgence by the Baby-Boomer Generation of Americans is burial at sea. This process includes scattering of ashes at sea, release of sinking biodegradable urns, and full body ocean burials.

Columbariums and mausoleums are densely concentrated above-ground storage units that house cremated and full interments respectively. These permanent memorial units offer efficient use of space however they do not represent a permanent solution to a cemetery's need for expansion and can be expensive to build and maintain.

Modifying acceptable burial practices is only a piece of the sustainability puzzle. Promoting and managing sustainability in our cemeteries may also include modifying the practices of the existing staff such as maintenance of the grounds, infrastructure improvements, capital investments, even right down to the record keeping.

Record Keeping and Mapping in the 21st Century

Cemeteries provide a wealth of information to historians, genealogists, and the descendants of the deceased. Besides managing physical space better, cemeteries should migrate from old paper records to a searchable electronic database using scanning technology. This effort becomes even more important to maintain a link to our past as we consider grave re-use and other alternatives to traditional burial in the name of sustainability.

With the advent of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and Graphical Information Systems (GIS) mapping technology has become widely utilized by the public in many new and exciting ways. GPS can locate ground features with impressive accuracy however it is not able to locate features that are buried. The use of geophysical techniques such as Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) may assist in finding the locations of graves whether marked with headstones or not. Today, Americans are more frequently utilizing available Graphical Information Systems (GIS) to research important information in which they are personally interested. A well-designed graphical information database with integral mapping for a cemetery accomplishes both the preservation of spatial and historic information, and its efficient subsequent retrieval for research and analysis. The modernization of the cemetery records and its record keeping system is a powerful example of how public works officials can begin working towards a sustainable future.

Significant changes to cemetery practices historically occur over relatively long time periods. So how can public works officials begin to lead this change towards sustainability in our existing cemeteries?

Community Building and the Triple Bottom Line

Public works officials need to supply the necessary strategic leadership to start this process. With the vision for a sustainable cemetery, leaders can utilize various tools such as a force field analysis to identify the variables involved in planning and implementing a change program. Rather than an open-door policy requiring the public to initiate a report, public works officials need to go out and get the information that is instrumental in developing a vision. A public works leader today needs to be a community builder. “The community builder has the ability to marshal all the forms of human capital (among them intelligence, passion, effort, creativity, compassion, and pride) of the various stakeholders they interact with and move them towards a common goal. Rather than one who requires, they are leaders who inspire.” (Hill 2011)

The team of cemetery contributors may include commissioners, public works staff, selectmen, funeral providers, health officials, clergy, neighbors, and others with interests in town cemeteries. It is the leader’s job to unleash the energy and talent of all contributing members of the team. The assembled team should adopt Kotter’s (1996) Eight-Stage Process of Creating Major Change to begin an assessment of the work ahead which includes:

1. Establishing a Sense of Urgency,
2. Creating the Guiding Coalition,
3. Developing a Vision and Strategy,
4. Communicating the Change Vision,
5. Empowering Broad-Based Action,
6. Generating Short-Term Wins,
7. Consolidating Gains and Producing More Change,
8. Anchoring New Approaches in the Culture.

It is imperative for the team to remember that people often view cemeteries with a sense of reverence that can overshadow objective consideration of the need for change. As the cemetery team considers working towards a sustainable future it must recognize that sustainability

contains three primary components; fiscal, social, and ecological; otherwise known as the Triple Bottom Line (TBL). Teams may find early success identifying low-cost or no-cost improvements that are noticeable. These mini-successes should be celebrated by the team and will serve to build momentum for more difficult challenges ahead.

The Future

With the first decade of the twenty-first century now behind us, public works officials must focus on the future of our American cemeteries. Any meaningful change requires patience, time, and education. Before sustainable changes are proposed, officials must take the time to understand the local cultures and customs that people hold sacred regarding human death. Public works officials must lead this important change by collaborating with local community assets to responsibly develop, implement, and support sustainable practices within these hallowed grounds.

For more information contact Robert D. McNeil III, P.E. at (508) 865-9143 or rmcneil@townofmillbury.net

TOWN OF MILLBURY

Operating Statement For the Period 07/01/2011 through 06/30/2012

Fiscal Year: 2011-2012

	07/01/2011 - 06/30/2012	Year To Date
INCOME		
PERPETUAL CARE TRUST FUND		
PERPETUAL CARE- DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE (+)	\$0.00	\$7,638.35
84.000.3291.01009.0000.340 ST. BRIGID'S CEMETERY	\$0.00	\$1,700.31
84.000.3291.01010.0000.340 W. MILLBURY CEMETERY	\$0.00	\$815.97
84.000.3291.84011.0000.340 PERPETUAL CARE FLOWERS	\$0.00	\$5,122.07
PERPETUAL CARE - REVENUE CURRENT (+)	\$14.54	\$14.54
84.100.4970.01009.0000.400 TRANSFERS FROM GENERAL FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00
84.491.4820.01009.0000.486 ST. BRIGID'S CEMETERY INT	\$2.59	\$2.59
84.491.4820.01010.0000.486 W. MILLBURY CEMETERY INT	\$1.60	\$1.60
84.491.4820.84011.0000.486 PERP CARE FLOWERS INTEREST	\$10.35	\$10.35
84.491.4830.84011.0000.423 PERP CARE FLOWERS DONATIONS	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sub-total : PERPETUAL CARE TRUST FUND	\$14.54	\$7,652.89
Total : INCOME	\$14.54	\$7,652.89
NET ADDITION/(DEFICIT)	\$14.54	\$7,652.89

End of Report

Memorialing Flowers

TOWN OF MILLBURY

Operating Statement For the Period 07/01/2011 through 06/30/2012

Fiscal Year: 2011-2012

	07/01/2011 - 06/30/2012	Year To Date
INCOME		
DESIGNATED ACCOUNT BALANCE		
DESIGNATED - CEMETARY LOT SALES (+)	\$0.00	\$9,514.09
24.000.3300.24014.0000.340		
DESIGNATED CEMETARY LOTS	\$0.00	\$9,514.09
Sub-total : DESIGNATED ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$0.00	\$9,514.09
SALE OF CEMETARY LOTS		
SALE OF CEMETARY LOTS - CURRENT (+)	\$5,625.00	\$5,625.00
24.491.4370.24014.0000.413		
SALE OF CEMETARY LOTS	\$5,625.00	\$5,625.00
Sub-total : SALE OF CEMETARY LOTS	\$5,625.00	\$5,625.00
Total : INCOME	\$5,625.00	\$15,139.09
NET ADDITION/(DEFICIT)	\$5,625.00	\$15,139.09

End of Report

DESIGNATED CEMETARY LOTS

SALE OF CEMETARY LOTS

Start with town meeting approval only

FY12 sales

TOWN OF MILLBURY

Operating Statement For the Period 07/01/2011 through 06/30/2012

Fiscal Year: 2011-2012

	07/01/2011 - 06/30/2012	Year To Date
INCOME		
PERPETUAL CARE TRUST FUND		
PERPETUAL CARE- DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE (+)	\$0.00	\$122,260.87
84.000.3291.84013.0000.340		
PERPETUAL CARE-DIVIDENDS	\$0.00	\$122,260.87
PERPETUAL CARE - REVENUE CURRENT (+)	\$551.16	\$551.16
84.491.4820.84013.0000.486		
PERPETUAL CARE-INTEREST	\$551.16	\$551.16
Sub-total : PERPETUAL CARE TRUST FUND	\$551.16	\$122,812.03
Total : INCOME	\$551.16	\$122,812.03
NET ADDITION/(DEFICIT)	\$551.16	\$122,812.03

End of Report

Expendable

TOWN OF MILLBURY

Operating Statement For the Period 07/01/2011 through 06/30/2012

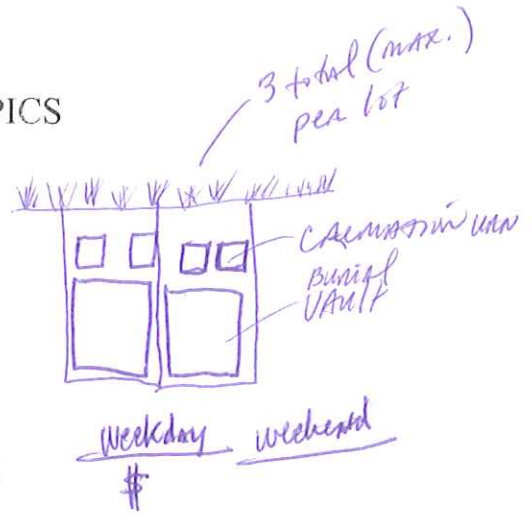
Fiscal Year: 2011-2012

	07/01/2011 - 06/30/2012	Year To Date
INCOME		
FUND BALANCE		
PERPETUAL CARE - DESIGNATED (+)	\$0.00	\$257,160.07
84.000.3291.84003.0000.340 PERPETUAL CARE	\$0.00	\$257,160.07
Sub-total : FUND BALANCE	\$0.00	\$257,160.07
CURRENT YEAR REVENUE		
SALE OF CEMETARY LOTS - CURRENT (+)	\$5,725.00	\$5,725.00
84.491.4830.84003.0000.423 PERPETUAL CARE-DONATIONS	\$5,725.00	\$5,725.00
Sub-total : CURRENT YEAR REVENUE	\$5,725.00	\$5,725.00
Total : INCOME	\$5,725.00	\$262,885.07
NET ADDITION/(DEFICIT)	\$5,725.00	\$262,885.07

End of Report

NON-expendable

TOWN OF MILLBURY
MEETING NOTICE/ AGENDA TOPICS



Board/Committee/Commission:

Date of Meeting: 6/13/11

Time of Meeting: 6:00 PM

Meeting Location: Small Conference Room

Meeting Type: Regular Special Emergency (Please Check Appropriate Box)

AGENDA TOPICS

1. Water expansion for areas 6 & 9- Spring 2011- review feasibility of expansion -
2. Drainage improvements- Spring 2011- review feasibility and manpower →
3. Budget and available funds- Review- current and FY 12 ✓
4. Fee schedule- note to Clerk's Office for increase ✓ - Survey in effort? ✓
5. Section 10 progress- area behind shed- review status = Complete
6. Cremation area- review status - ?
7. Status of the proposed expansion area along the Blackstone River- DPW working with Conservation Commission to see if this is possible. (degraded area) (quote G. Knowlton)
8. Set meeting dates for FY12

Meeting dates:

June 13, 2011

must be PAID before burial

- Cemetery accounts
- interest
- costs of new plots?

Signature of Chair Person or Clerk: _____