

Princeton Cemetery Commission Meeting – Monday September 18, 2017
Town Hall Meeting Room
Minutes

October 18, 2017

Present: Paul Constantino, Lynne Grettum, Lou Trostel, Ron Milenski, Nina Nazarian, Bruce Rollins and Jamie Deloge.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Paul Constantino at 6:02 P.M.

Cemetery Updates – Foreman, Jamie Deloge & Town Administrator, Nina Nazarian

Foreman, Jamie Deloge reported that she ordered and received the fertilizer and lime for a fall application to Woodlawn and South Cemeteries. This application will occur this week. She also plans to re-seed the 1986 area of Woodlawn Cemetery. This is the section of cemetery that was infested with white grubs and suffered almost complete turf loss.

The tree work that was approved at the August meeting will be scheduled and completed. This work will be accomplished by “Trees Unlimited”.

Town Administrator, Nina Nazarian cautioned that with the expenditures for fertilizer, lime and tree work that the committee and foreman need to monitor future expenditures to insure that the Cemetery Department stays within the budget.

Nina also mentioned that she will not hire an employee to replace Chris Foley for the fall. Chris will need to miss some work time due to personal reasons. He is hoping to be available at times during the fall to assist with leaf removal.

Keogh Memorial Stone

A discussion took place regarding the memorial stone for William R. Keogh. The memorial stone was installed in August without the approval of the Cemetery Department and in violation of the “Cemetery – Rules & Regulations”. The issue is whether to allow the memorial stone to remain in place or to have the family remove and replace the stone. The memorial is a flat stone that was hand carved and painted by the Keogh family.

The committee members decided to table the decision until the October meeting so that the members could inspect the Keogh memorial stone. This topic/issue will be included in the October 2017 Agenda.

Business Model Discussion for the Cemetery Department

Town Administrator, Nina Nazarian led a discussion regarding the future business model for the Cemetery Department. Two reasonable options seem logical:

1. Stay the course with the present model. Town employees maintain the cemeteries and facilitate burials. Utilize a contractor to excavate and fill grave lots. A “Cemetery Superintendent” oversees the business related to the cemeteries such as selling grave lots, scheduling burials, communication with funeral homes and record keeping.

2. Utilize “Purchased Services/Contractors” to perform the cemetery maintenance and burials. Continue to employ a “Cemetery Superintendent” to oversee cemetery business and to supervise “Purchased Services/Contractors”.

Bruce Rollins suggested that a clear and specific document be prepared to delineate the “Responsibilities “of the Town and Contractors should the Cemetery Department decide to utilize “Purchased Services/Contractors”.

Nina asked the committee to review the “Specifications for Grave Excavation & Burial Services and Lawn Mowing & Grounds Keeping” that were prepared by the Shrewsbury Cemetery Department. She also mentioned that the committee should modify these documents to meet the needs/requirements of the Princeton Cemetery Department, should a “Purchased Services/Contractors” business model be selected.

Prior Meeting Minutes Review – August 2017

The meeting minutes from the August 2017 cemetery meeting were reviewed. Member Grettum mentioned that there were spelling errors that required correction. Secretary, Milenski will correct the spelling errors.

Member Grettum motioned to accept the August 2017 minutes as written pending the spelling corrections.

Seconded by Member Milenski.

August 2017 – Minutes - Accepted: 4 – 0.

Cremation Price Update

Acting Cemetery Superintendent, Bruce Rollins suggested that the Cemetery Department raise the price of cremation burials from \$260.00 to \$400.00. This cost would include either size cremation vault. The large vault (\$135.00) is more expensive than the smaller sized vault (\$90.00). His reasoning is that the Cemetery Department is losing money based on the cost of the cremation vault and the labor required to facilitate the cremation burial.

A discussion regarding the pro and cons of raising the cremation burial fee took place.

Member Constantino made a motion to raise the price of a Cremation Burial from \$260.00 to \$400.00.

Member Milenski seconded the motion.

The motion passed: 3 -1.

October/Next Meeting

Chairman, Constantino scheduled the next Cemetery Commission meeting for October 23, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.

A motion was made to adjourn by Member Milenski.

Seconded by Member Constantino.

Motion Passed: 4 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Submitted by Ron Milenski, Secretary

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