

Princeton Cemetery Commission Meeting – Monday August 13, 2018
Town Hall Annex - Small Meeting Room
Minutes

September 3, 2018

Present: Charlie Steele, Paul Constantino, Ron Milenski and Cemetery Superintendent,
Bill Bergstrom.

Absent: Lou Trostel

The Cemetery Committee members made their own inspections of Parker I, North and Meetinghouse Cemeteries. The meeting then commenced at the Town Hall Annex – Small Meeting Room.

Walk Thru – Review/Issues /Projects/Goals

Parker I Cemetery:

- A. Parker I Cemetery is in good condition and there are no major maintenance issues.

North Cemetery:

- A. The cobblestone pathway requires significant maintenance and repair to correct the wash outs/erosion problems and the stabilization and releveling of the cobblestones.
- B. Five memorial stones are broken/significantly damaged and need repair. The cause of the damage is undetermined.
- C. The memorials/lots of Hendrickson and Sesia are noncompliant per the Princeton Cemetery “Rules and Regulations”. Notice needs to be given to these families to remove noncompliant materials (orange mulch). Dark organic compost or dark compost mulch is acceptable.
- D. Member Constantino mentioned that he would like to continue discussions with the Princeton Electric Light Department regarding the removal of the support utility pole located at the front of North Cemetery. He asked that Cemetery Superintendent, Bergstrom schedule a site visit with Brian Allen, General Manager of PMLD to discuss this issue.
- E. Member Constantino also mentioned that North Cemetery was scheduled to have a flag pole and U.S. flag with the appropriate lighting installed in 2017. This project was not accomplished and he recommends that the Cemetery Department and Committee accomplish this project within an appropriate time frame. Paul questioned if budget funds are available to complete the installation.

Meetinghouse Cemetery:

- A. Meetinghouse Cemetery is in good condition and there are no major maintenance issues.
- B. Member Milenski noted that two trees require pruning to remove dead wood. A bid of \$1,600.00 was received from Harding Enterprises for this work.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Steele at the Town Hall Annex – Small Meeting Room at 7:36 P.M.

Review of Cemetery Walk Thrus and Project/Maintenance Items

Chairman, Steele led a discussion related to the items that were identified by each member during their own cemetery inspections (Recorded Above).

Member Milenski recommended that the Project/Improvement/Goals Spread Sheet based on the committee's monthly walk - thrus become a permanent agenda item for review and updates at each Cemetery Commission meeting. All members agreed that this would be a valuable item to review and discuss monthly. This will also provide a method to measure the completion of the committee's goals.

Cemetery Superintendent, Bergstrom reported that he reviewed the tree work at Boylston Cemetery with Karl Smith, owner of "Trees Unlimited" and the final pricing for the removal of a large oak tree and the pruning of a maple tree was \$3,500.00. He also noted that he awarded the bid and that "Trees Unlimited" will schedule the work to be accomplished as soon as they are available.

Superintendent, Bergstrom noted that there is \$7,475.00 available in encumber funds.

Cemetery Superintendent, Bergstrom reported that he received a bid from New England Acreage Group to perform the repairs to the cobblestone pathway at North Cemetery. He plans to review all bids and provide a recommendation to the committee. Kevin West and A.R.I. grounds have also submitted bids to repair the cobblestone pathway at North Cemetery.

Review of July 16, 2018 Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes for July 16, 2018 were reviewed.

A motion was made by Member, Constantino to accept the minutes as written.

The motion was seconded by member, Milenski.

Minutes were accepted and approved. Vote : 3 – 0.

Cemetery Superintendent Report

Cemetery Superintendent, Bergstrom noted that some of the language in the Princeton Cemetery "Rules and Regulations" no longer applies to present Cemetery Department operations. As an example: the Cemetery Department no longer installs the concrete bases for memorial stones. This is now accomplished by the memorial stone companies.

Chairman, Steele volunteered to make the recommended language changes to the "Rules and Regulations" and have edited "Rules and Regulations" ready for committee review and for the September meeting.

Superintendent, Bergstrom reported that he has not yet had the opportunity to have a discussion with Highway Superintendent, Glen Lyons or the Town Administrator regarding the service/maintenance, future utilization or disposition of the Cemetery Department's power equipment. Bill will prioritize this goal for the upcoming week.

Total Inventory of Available/Saleable Cemetery Lots/Plots – In Progress

This is a carryover agenda item that is scheduled to be completed by September/October 2018. Former Chairperson, Grettum is in the process of compiling an inventory of all available/saleable cemetery lots/plots.

New Member

Town resident, Greg Miranda has submitted an application to become a Cemetery Commission member. Chairman, Steele mentioned that he knows Greg Miranda and the committee discussed Greg's participation on the Cemetery Commission. All members agreed that they would welcome his membership and that the Cemetery Committee would benefit by having a full membership.

A motion was made by Member, Milenski to recommend Greg Miranda as a Cemetery Commission Member to the Board of Selectmen for their approval.

The motion was seconded by member, Constantino.

The motion was approved. Vote : 3 – 0.

Memorial Stone Damage and Repair Options

Chairman, Steele noted that there are several memorial stones at various cemeteries that are broken and require repair. He noted that he has identified a company, "Grave Stone Services of New England" in Bedford, N.H. that repairs damaged memorial stones. Members, Constantino and Milenski noted that the previous Cemetery Superintendent and the department crew repaired the older broken memorial stones in house utilizing an all weather epoxy and then strapping the memorial tight until the epoxy cured. This method was an effective repair of the old memorial stones. All members agreed that it would be of value to contact "Grave Stone Services of New England" to determine if utilizing their services was cost efficient.

Member, Milenski questioned what was causing the recent high volume of broken/damaged memorial stones, since the volume of damaged memorials is abnormally high as compared to previous years.

Next Meeting – September 10, 2018

Chairman, Steele set the time and date for the next meeting on September 10, 2018. A site visit to North Cemetery will commence at 6:30 P.M. to discuss the location relating to the installation of an illuminated flag pole. The monthly meeting in the Town Hall Annex – Small Meeting Room will follow the inspection of North Cemetery.

Member Milenski motioned to adjourn.

Seconded by Member Constantino.

Motion Passed: 3 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 P.M.

Submitted by Ron Milenski, Secretary

PCCminutes 9.3.2018