

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Monthly meeting of the cemetery commission was held on Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 3:30PM at the Municipal Garage at 95 Charge Pond Road in Wareham, MA.

Present: Brenda Eckstrom
Nancy Miller (remote access)
Deborah Jean Rose

Also Present: Deborah Berchtold
David Menard
Peter Teitelbaum
James Moran

Nancy Miller was out of town on family business.. It was voted to allow her to participate via remote access 2-0-0

It was voted 2-0-1 to accept last month's minutes

New business: 1 Deed to be signed and 1 Deed to be transferred

Signed deed: Gene & Linda Crocker Agawam Annex Lot 229 graves 3,4,5 & 6 ½ Lot
this was approved 3-0-0 with Deborah Berchtold to sign for Nancy Miller
an e-mail to be sent giving D. Berchtold permission to sign for Nancy

Transfer deed: Grace Morrison regarding Lot 351 Centre Cemetery graves 1-8 grave name "Besse"
Grace Morrison mailed a letter saying that the relatives were giving up their rights to the Besse lot. There was a lot of confusion about all the relatives involved who may have rights to this lot. It was determined to hold off on the transfer of deed until the next meeting thus giving Nancy Miller a chance to contact Grace Morrison and discuss the legal rights

Foundations: Approved for Centre Cemetery Lot 739 Grave 4 "Santos" 2x1 (applied for by Donald Monteiro) Located near the ancient cemetery therefore must have appropriate stone consistent with other stones in the area/Approval upon certain conditions: no high gloss/no pictures
Motion was made and seconded

Approved for Centre Cemetery Lot 315 "Keane" 2x1 (applied for by Kate Souza)
Nancy Millers expressed concern about highly glossed stones although it was brought up "what about the stones already there?" "is there a policy about stones?"
Motion was made and seconded using the same conditions as above (no laser, no high gloss, no pictures)

It was suggested that someone visit the cemeteries to view what type(s) of stones are in the different Sections to check for consistency (Deborah Jean Rose offered to do this)

It was also suggested that someone contact a monument company to get the clarification on certain Terms used in describing stones (eg. Pol 2 – Pol 5 etc) Deborah Berchtold to contact Joe Barnicoat

Approved for Centre Cemetery Annex Lot 229 grave 4 "Memoli" 2x1 (applied for by Janet Memoli) No rules for Annex – wide variety of stones
Motion was made and seconded

Approved for Agawam Cemetery Annex Lot 86 Single section "Faleski" (applied for By Mary Donovan)
Motion was made and seconded

Two items not on the agenda:

Nancy Miller brought up the configuration of graves due to the fact that a recent burial requested the body face east due to some religious beliefs. It was suggested that this be made available in some sections. Would be a hardship to do now as the cemeteries are not set up for it but this will be taken into account for the future as the cemeteries are expanded

Deborah Jean Rose brought up assistance with the computer but with Nancy Miller in NY and the information needed at her home this is something that will be discussed later

Water Shut Off in the Cemeteries:

All water to the Wareham cemeteries was shut off due to the vandalism in the Centre Cemetery that resulted in a huge water bill at the Municipal Maintenance's expense.

At this time James (Barney) Moran voiced his concerns regarding the 20 plus graves that he tends to in the Agawam Cemetery (including those of his two children). The money in the perpetual fund account was brought up but according to state law you cannot access the money, you can use the interest portion which is depleted due to prior maintenance. There is no money in the fund. This brought up the question "is perpetual care a convenience?" which was deemed as unacceptable.

Two meters were pulled at the Centre Cemetery.

David Menard is looking into irrigation systems as well as the possibility of putting in valves with timers however this will not take place until July 1, 2015 as he will not deficit spend.

Nancy Miller voiced concern about driving through some of the cemeteries and noticing that sometimes there were sprinklers left running unattended.

There was talk of "alternative" covers for graves instead of planting grass which requires a lot of water.

There was concern of blindsiding people on May 1, 2015 when they found out first hand there was no

water available to them for tending to flowers/plants.

Peter Teitelbaum offered to talk to the Water Commissioners and see if they will be willingly to help in any way with the water concerns. Try to see if the members of the cemetery commission could be invited to a water commission meeting to try to work together on this. Anything that can be done would be greatly appreciated.

Other Business: Brenda Eckstrom's term is set to expire on June 30, 2015. Deborah Jean Rose made a motion to reappoint her to another term. She will e mail a letter to the Board of Selectmen indicating this. It was voted 3-0-0 to reappoint Brenda Eckstrom.

The date of the next meeting was set for June 14, 2015 which unfortunately is a Sunday so after the fact the next meeting was rescheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2015 at 3:30 to be held in the cafeteria at the Town Hall.

Meeting Adjourned

Deborah Jean Rose

JUN 18 2015