

Princeton Cemetery Commission Meeting – Monday April 22, 2019
Town Hall Annex - Small Meeting Room
Minutes

May 5, 2019

Present: Charlie Steele, Lou Trostel, Paul Constantino, Greg Miranda and Ron Milenski.

Absent: Cemetery Superintendent, Bill Bergstrom.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Steele at the Town Hall Annex – Small Meeting Room at 7:03 P.M.

Cemetery Inspections/Walk Throughs

The scheduled inspections/walk throughs of Woodlawn, South and Meeting House Cemeteries were postponed and rescheduled due to rain. Chairman, Steele noted that he made his own inspection and that New England Acreage Group has started the cleanup of the cemeteries and that he also noticed that a few memorial stones have fallen over during the winter.

All members shared their cell and home phone numbers to facilitate easier contact in the event that Chairman, Steele needs to cancel or reschedule a meeting or cemetery inspections on short notice.

Review of March 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes for March 11, 2019 were reviewed.

A motion was made by member, Steele to accept the minutes as written.

The motion was seconded by member, Constantino.

Minutes were accepted. Vote : 5 – 0.

Cemetery Superintendent's Report

Cemetery Superintendent, Bergstrom was unable to attend the meeting due to a work related emergency. He spoke to member, Milenski and noted that he is extremely concerned about the erosion at North Cemetery and that he is contacting landscape contractors to develop a solution. He is also continuing to work on formulating fertilizer and lime programs for Woodlawn, South, North and West Cemeteries. He will report at the next meeting.

Repair of Broken Memorial Stones – Boy Scouts & Bruce Rollins

Member, Miranda noted that he did contact the Boy Scout leadership regarding the possibility of having the Boy Scouts become involved in a community service project that assists the Cemetery Department to repair broken memorial stones. Miranda noted that for the scouts to achieve official credit to advance in "Scouting" rank, they need to assume leadership, management and supervisory duties related to the project.

Chairman, Steele mentioned that Bruce Rollins, former Cemetery Superintendent contacted him and that Bruce is interested in repairing the memorial stones. Charlie also suggested that member, Miranda coordinate a meeting with Superintendent, Bergstrom, the Boy Scout leadership and Bruce Rollins to develop a set of goals and clear direction related to this project.

Review and Discussion of Woodlawn Cemetery Maps - Sections 1956 & 1986

Member, Milenski presented the maps of Woodlawn Cemetery, Sections 1956 & 1986. These maps were updated approximately three years ago by then Cemetery Superintendent, Andy Brown utilizing “Ground Radar” to provide as accurate an as possible inventory of these two Woodlawn Cemetery sections. The members reviewed the maps and questioned if the inventory of lots/plots have been updated within the past three years. Chairman, Steele took temporary possession of the maps to acquaint himself with the map layout and inventory.

Member, Milenski noted that our goal of verifying a “Total Accurate Inventory” of all cemetery lots/plots has not yet been achieved. He mentioned that for long term planning purposes for the town and cemetery department, that perhaps a “50 Year” inventory of sellable lots/plots might be a realistic goal. South Cemetery has available area to develop sellable lots/plots and supply some of the town’s future demand. Additionally, the purchase of land to develop another cemetery should continually be explored.

Once again member, Miranda volunteered to research the cemetery department data base and archives to help to identify an accurate inventory of sellable lots/plots. Chairman, Steele will assist to determine where this data is located at Town Hall.

Memorial Day Observance – May 26,2019, 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Chairman, Steele noted that Phil Connors will order the small flags for the veteran’s markers at each veteran grave site. He also mentioned that the Girl Scouts will place the flags into the veteran’s markers. The parade route will follow its normal path (Brooks Station Road and Connor Lane) to Woodlawn Cemetery for the ceremony and then return to the Town Common by way of Radford Road and Hubbardston Road to complete the day’s events.

Review and Discussion of Cemetery “Project List”

The Cemetery “Project List” items were covered by member, Milenski.

South Cemetery - Remove Abandoned 18 Wheel Truck & Guard Rail System

Member, Milenski read an email from the Town Administrator regarding the removal of the abandoned 18 wheel truck across from South Cemetery. Nina noted that the select board has acknowledged our concerns regarding the removal of the truck. Other boards and officials in town also have concerns regarding this truck.

Nina’s email mentioned that the individual who inherited the property including the truck is working through the probate process and anticipates that it will require another few months for finalization. This individual plans to resolve the issue.

Member, Constantino questioned if any progress has been made regarding replacing the damaged and deteriorated guard rail system at South Cemetery. This item has been on the “Project List” for a significant time. The members agreed that Cemetery Superintendent, Bergstrom should contact the Highway Superintendent regarding the guard rail system.

Other Items

It was noted that all “Winter Decorations” need to be removed at all grave sites by May 1st. The Cemetery Superintendent has the authority to remove the “Winter Decorations” after May 1st.

Member, Milenski mentioned that he will review his prior year meeting minutes to verify if there are any records or drawings regrading available lots/plots at South and West cemeteries.

Next Meeting – May 13, 2019

Chairman, Steele set the time and date for the next meeting, 6:00 P.M. on May 13, 2019. The members will meet at North Cemetery and then proceed to Meeting House and Woodlawn Cemeteries for inspections. The monthly Cemetery Meeting will convene at the Town Hall Annex - Small Meeting Room, after the inspections.

Member, Constantino motioned to adjourn.

Seconded by Member, Miranda.

Motion Passed: 5 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 P.M.

Submitted by Ron Milenski, Secretary
PCCminutes 4.22.2019