

Princeton Cemetery Commission Meeting – Monday April 21, 2021
Remote-Meeting via GoToMeeting

Present: Lynne Grettum, Lou Trostel, Greg Miranda, Paul Constantino, Andy Brown

Absent: Amy Holwell

The meeting was called to order by Chair Grettum at 7:04 P.M.

Review and Prioritize Tree Removal List

Chair Grettum had been informed about the availability of approximately \$4000 from the town tree fund for use by the Cemetery Department. A joint project was going to be put out for bid, combining various tree removal work around town, and a quick decision was necessary on which project(s) we wanted to prioritize for our portion of the funds.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding which cemetery trees should be included in the upcoming work. A priority list had already been proposed by Superintendent Brown in his April 2021 report. In response to a question, Andy stated that there were no individual trees that were in critically dangerous condition. Also, certain project work should be grouped together because it requires specific equipment; the physical environment of North and Meetinghouse Cemeteries do not allow for access by a regular bucket truck and need a Spider-lift.

As described in the April 2021 report, estimates had been obtained for tree removal in various cemeteries as follows: North (\$4950), Meetinghouse (\$2950), Woodlawn (\$950 and 1500 – 2 separate projects), South (\$1500), and Parker II (\$2400). It was hoped that better pricing might be obtained as part of the larger town-wide bid.

During the discussion, consensus eventually focused on the projects in North and Meetinghouse Cemeteries. The requirement for special Spider-lift equipment means those projects cannot be broken up and attacked piece-meal, although each site could be done separately. The available town funding will be insufficient to pay for both, however. It was suggested that both projects be undertaken together, with supplemental money coming from Cemetery Department accounts. A motion was proposed by G. Miranda, that the specialized work in both cemeteries be included in the bid, with the intent of using additional Cemetery Department funds to cover the difference. Superintendent Brown pointed out that some of our discretionary funds will already be accounted for in FY2021, not leaving as much for additional projects as was being suggested. It was then pointed out that we could not actually place conditional items on the town bid, which would be evaluated as a whole without an opportunity to subtract items after learning the price. The motion did not proceed.

Within the scope of the present funding, the specialized work could only be conducted in one of the two cemeteries. Sentiments were expressed in favor of both locations, such as Meetinghouse for its higher-visibility, or North due to the larger project size which made funding from our accounts more difficult.

A motion was made by P. Constantino, to submit the specialized work in Meetinghouse Cemetery for bid, along with additional work in another cemetery as allowed by the remainder of the funds that we receive. The motion failed to receive a second.

Subsequently, a motion was put forward by G. Miranda to submit the package of work at North Cemetery, as described in the April 2021 Superintendent Report, out for bid as part of the town-wide tree work proposal. The motion was seconded by L. Trostel, and passed by a vote of 3-1.

Administrative Changes – Meeting Venue

Due to forthcoming loosening of state guidelines relating to in-person meetings, the town is allowing for a return to in-person meetings by town committees. Members discussed whether to return to in-person meetings or to continue meeting online. All of the present members were comfortable with gathering in person. The group did not wish to impose its will upon the absent member, A. Holwell, but it was pointed out that it would still be necessary to have an online presence during the meetings in the foreseeable future to maintain public access.

A motion was made by L. Grettum to return to in-person meetings starting in May 2021, most likely to be held in the town annex building. The motion was seconded by G. Miranda, and passed by a vote of 4-0.

Items not anticipated by the Chair 48 hours before meeting

Chair Grettum informed the members about difficulties encountered during a full burial which took place on Saturday April 17 in Woodlawn Cemetery. The excavation was performed by Josh Harding for the first time and proceeded very well except that due to recent snowfall and rain, the ground was very soft and the pickup truck removing the dirt from the grave became stuck in the mud. Lynne wanted to point out how the Highway Department was very proactive in helping with the unusual situation, both with extricating the equipment and returning the following day to perform major repairs to the damaged lawn area.

Schedule Next Meeting

The next regular meeting has already been scheduled for Monday May 17, 2021 at 7:00 PM, however the venue will be changed from an online meeting via GoToMeeting to an in-person meeting at a town facility, most likely the town annex. The exact location will be announced in the 'Notice of Meeting' prior to the event.

P. Constantino motioned to adjourn, seconded by G. Miranda, passed unanimously, 4-0.
Meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Submitted by Greg Miranda, Secretary
PCCminutes 5.6.2021