

**Princeton Cemetery Commission Meeting – Monday August 9, 2021
North Cemetery/ Town Hall Annex – Small Meeting Room and GoToMeeting
Minutes**

Present: Lynne Grettum, Amy Holwell, Greg Miranda, Paul Constantino, Andy Brown

Absent: Lou Trostel

The meeting was called to order by Chair Grettum at 6:02 P.M., at North Cemetery.

North Cemetery Review

Positions for a new flagpole were evaluated. A location was chosen inside the cemetery border wall, to the left of the entranceway. Superintendent Brown has already ordered the flagpole and will arrange for its installation, and coordinate electrification with PMLD.

Superintendent Brown led the Members in examination of the grave-lot layout on some of the terraces on the cemetery hillside. There are locations where two or three rows of cremation lots were located or proposed on the relatively narrow terrace levels. There is not a problem with the physical internments, but with the potential placement of so many vertical monuments within the space.

Members left the cemetery and reconvened in the small meeting room of the Town Hall Annex.

Members observed that installing the maximum number of vertical monuments on cremation lots in North Cemetery would be undesirable from both an aesthetic and maintenance point of view. There was reluctance to change the regulations for people who already owned cremation lots in the problematic areas, who have expectations based on the rules existing at the time of purchase.

A motion was made by G. Miranda to change the cemetery rules and regulations so as to require that only flat markers be used on any cremation lots yet to be sold in North Cemetery. The motion was seconded by P. Constantino, and passed by unanimous vote, 4-0.

The Superintendent shall encourage the use of flat markers on existing cremation lots. There also are locations within the area of discussion in North Cemetery, where the monument-location issue would be improved if a few sold lots were swapped to neighboring spots to create a more homogeneous arrangement. The Superintendent may discuss relocation with the current lot owners. In both the above cases, the intention of the owner will have precedence.

Review of Meeting Minutes from July 12, 2021

The minutes from the 7/12/2021 meeting were reviewed, and approved as written by unanimous vote, 4-0.

Cemetery Superintendent Report (see Attached for details)

Highlights:

- 2 Cremation burial performed.
- 2 Full lots sold in Woodlawn Cemetery.
- 11 Tree stumps ground-down in Meetinghouse, North and Woodlawn Cemeteries.
- Assorted projects completed: sunken graves filled, headstones straightened, brush and sapling cutting, and repair to cobblestone border along North Cemetery steps.

Other Discussion:

Superintendent Brown proposed making an attempt to acquire the oldest dump truck from the Highway Department, which is 2 years from scheduled retirement, for permanent use by the Cemetery Department. Members favored the plan and approved Andy to continue the negotiations.

Chair Grettum noted that Town Administrator Patch was going to initiate discussions within town government regarding a potential change of the Highway Department to a Department of Public Works model. Such a change would include transfer of cemetery maintenance responsibilities to the remodeled department. Members were in favor of exploring the possibility.

Anderson Tree Donation Proposal

Most of the Members had a chance to visit Woodlawn Cemetery to observe the location of the proposed tree plantings, as marked by Superintendent Brown. Members had no issues, based on the assurances from Andy that graves would not be disturbed. Andy also recommended planting sugar-maple trees in particular, due to their growth characteristics and longevity.

A motion was made by L. Grettum to accept the donation proposal by the Andersons to plant two sugar-maple trees in Woodlawn Cemetery in the locations designated by Superintendent Brown; installation to be performed by professional landscapers. The motion was seconded by P. Constantino and passed by unanimous vote, 4-0.

Final approval by Selectboard is required before implementation. It is anticipated that the trees will be planted at a favorable time in the fall. Discussion of the possibility of markers on the trees was tabled until later.

Superintendent Salary Discussion

Superintendent Brown had asked for a salary review, and based on research by Chair Grettum, the Members were in favor of recommending an increase. As reminded by Lynne, salary changes involve a process and not just a simple vote by the committee. The process includes goals and a performance review. Lynne will draft some starting notes on review and send to other Members for additional comments.

Items not anticipated by the Chair 48 hours before meeting

Topic of cemetery tours raised by A. Holwell, who described the success of the tour she attended in Sterling. Amy felt that a similar tour could succeed in Princeton, though it would optimally require the involvement of multiple groups; volunteered to work with the Historical Commission as a start.

Action Item Update

New:

- G. Miranda to draft revised clause in rules & regulations regarding mandatory flat markers on new cremation lots in North Cemetery.
- A. Howell to continue work on cemetery tour with appropriate partnering groups.
- L. Grettum to initiate drafting of goals/review for Superintendent Brown.

Continuing:

- L. Grettum and G. Miranda to continue investigation of Cemetery Management Software.
- L. Grettum to send email to Historical Commission regarding location for flagpole at Meetinghouse Cemetery.
- Undecided – next steps in Meetinghouse crypt repair?

Schedule Next Meeting

Chair Grettum scheduled the next meeting for Monday September 13, 2021, to be held at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Annex.

A motion was made to adjourn, seconded, and passed unanimously, 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 P.M.

Submitted by Greg Miranda, Secretary
PCCminutes 8.29.2021