

**Princeton Cemetery Commission Meeting – Monday April 23, 2018**  
**Town Hall Annex Small Meeting Room**  
**Minutes**

May 7, 2018

**Present:** Lynne Grettum, Lou Trostel, Paul Constantino, Charles Steele, Ron Milenski, Bruce Rollins and Mary Trostel.

**The meeting commenced at 6:30 P.M. with an inspection of Woodlawn Cemetery. Inspection of both South and Boylston Cemeteries immediately followed the Woodlawn inspection. The meeting then moved to the Town Hall Annex – Small Meeting Room.**

**Walk Through – Review/Issues /Projects/Goals**

**Woodlawn Cemetery:**

- A. Two Memorial Stones Require Repair and Resetting.
- B. Woodlawn Requires General Clean Up – Mainly Branch and Twig Clean Up.
- C. The Greene Grave Site (December 2017 Burial) Requires Loaming, Fertilization and Seeding.
- D. The Olliva and Keough Grave sites are Non Compliant. Notice to be Given.
- E. Need To Remove U.S. Flags Each November and to Shut Off Electricity to Flag Poles (All Cemeteries).
- F. Paul Constantino Mentioned That the Stone Wall Along Connor Lane Requires General Maintenance and the Resetting of Stones.
- G. The Entry to Woodlawn Cemetery Requires Re-grading and Possible Paving.

**South Cemetery:**

- A. The Guard Rails Along Ball Hill Road Require Replacement or Removal. Lynne will Contact the Highway Superintendent.
- B. The “Stop Ahead” Sign Along Ball Hill Road Needs to be Reset.
- C. The Plastic Entrance Posts are Unlevel and Require Leveling. A Chain Needs to be Installed Between the Posts to Prevent Vehicle Entry. A Suggestion was Mentioned, that Granite Entry Posts Would be an Upgrade vs. the Plastic Poles.
- D. The 18 Wheel Truck and Trailer on Ball Hill Road Needs to be Removed.
- E. The Clark Grave Site is Non Compliant. Notice to be Given.
- F. The Boxes that were Constructed to Contain the “Rules and Regulations” Need to be Maintained and Stocked.

**Boylston Cemetery:**

- A. Remains of a Fallen Tree and the Remaining Stump Requires Clean Up.
- B. An Oak Tree (Near the Neighbor’s Property line) Needs to be Evaluated for Possible Removal. Ron will Follow Up with Josh Hastings.
- C. A General Clean Up is Required.
- D. The Iron Work at the Entrance Requires Maintenance and Restoration.
- E. Some Shrubs Require Pruning.
- F. Review the Original Charter/Agreement between the Boylston Family and the Town of Princeton related to the burial land on Hubbardston Road.

## **Updates On The “Lawn Mowing and Grounds Keeping – Cemetery and Town Center” and “Cemetery Grave Excavation” Contracts**

Chairperson Grettum reported that New England Acreage Group, Inc. has been awarded the contracts to perform services for both “Lawn Mowing/Grounds Keeping and Grave Excavation”. The required insurance documentation and other paper work will be provided by New England Acreage Group, Inc. and they should be ready to commence work this Wednesday, April 25, 2018.

New England Acreage Group, Inc. has agreed to charge \$500.00 per Full Body Grave Opening and Closure and \$175.00 for a Cremation Opening and Closure.

## **Fiscal Year 2018 Projects**

Member Milenski will contact Josh Harding to obtain price quotations for the removal of tree stumps at North Cemetery, tree pruning at Meeting House Cemetery, the evaluation of a possible tree removal and stump grinding at Boylston Cemetery.

Member Lou Trostel and Mary Trostel stated that they would prefer to have the terrace leveling site work that was bid three years ago completed at North Cemetery. A bid of \$4,000.00 was obtained to perform this work. The Cemetery Department employees cleared small trees and brush from this area in advance of starting this work. The undertaking of this project has been on hold due to the cost.

## **Review of Princeton Cemetery Lot Pricing**

Chairperson Grettum reported that she has contacted two neighboring towns to compare pricing related to the cost of cemetery lots. She has contacted Sterling and West Boylston and will follow up with a few other towns. She noted that West Boylston charges \$800.00 and that some towns charge higher fees for burials on weekends. If the Cemetery Committee decides to increase the pricing, she noted that July would be a suitable time to make the changes. The new fiscal years starts July 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Other Business**

Member Milenski reported that since the Princeton Cemetery “Rules & Regulations” do not allow the use of wood mulch at the monument base, therefore a suitable alternative material (compost or loam) needs be “Recommended”. He will obtain a sample of compost from “Busy Bee Nurseries” for the committee’s inspection and possible approval.

Chairperson Grettum reported that she was asked a question regarding “Green Burials”. A “Green Burial” does not utilize a casket or vault. The body is naturally returned directly to the earth. Members Constantino and Milenski noted that they had a discussion related to “Green Burials” with the members of the Petersham Cemetery Commission last year and that the Petersham Cemetery commission is considering utilizing this burial option. Chairperson Grettum would like to include the item “Green Burials” as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Member Steele questioned the committee regarding the total available inventory of burial lots available for sale at all cemeteries. Lots are mainly available at Woodlawn, South, West and North Cemeteries. Member Steele noted that this inventory is critical to the overall short and long range planning related to the future procurement and development of additional cemetery land or land use of our existing cemeteries. Obviously, it is important information regarding the ongoing sale of cemetery lots.

Chairperson Grettum mentioned that this inventory is available and that she would make it available for the Cemetery Committee. She also noted that the Cemetery Commission actively “Buys Back” cemetery lots/plots that are unused. After seventy –five years the town has the option to “Buy Back” or retake a cemetery lot/plot if the original purchaser/family is no longer planning to utilize the lot/plot or after a “Public Notice” the lot/plot is unclaimed.

Chairperson Grettum also reported that the job description and employment ad for the permanent “Cemetery Superintendent” has not been completed. She and the town administrator will prepare the two documents related to the hiring of this position.

### **Next Meeting – May 21, 2018**

Chairperson Grettum set the time and date for the next meeting on May 21, 2018. An inspection of Parker I Cemetery will commence at 6:30 P.M. with inspections of North and Meeting House Cemeteries to follow directly after. The monthly meeting will follow the cemetery inspections.

Member Milenski motioned to adjourn.

Seconded by Member Constantino.

Motion Passed: 5 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 P.M.

Submitted by Ron Milenski, Secretary

PCCminutes 4.23.2018