

**Princeton Cemetery Commission Meeting – Monday May 21, 2018**  
**Town Hall Small Meeting Room**  
**Minutes**

June 7, 2018

**Present:** Lynne Grettum, Paul Constantino, Charles Steele and Ron Milenski.

**Absent:** Lou Trostel

**The meeting commenced at 6:30 P.M. with an inspection of Parker I Cemetery. An inspection of both North and Meetinghouse Cemeteries immediately followed the Parker I inspection. The meeting then moved to the Town Hall – Small Meeting Room.**

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

**Parker I Cemetery:**

- A. Member Milenski suggested that the mowing height be raised to a minimum of 3 inches. The higher mowing height would naturally provide increased ground cover.
- B. Charlie Albrecht, the senior who maintains Parker I Cemetery requested some loam, fertilizer and lime for the general maintenance of Parker I Cemetery. Member Milenski offered to pick up the fertilizer and lime from the supplier and deliver it to Mr. Albrecht.
- C. Overall Parker I Cemetery is clean, neat and in very good condition. Mr. Albrecht's excellent efforts have made a significant improvement to Parker I Cemetery.

**North Cemetery:**

- A. PMLD stability pole still needs to be moved to the opposite side of Mirick Road.
- B. Some cobblestones are loose and need to be reset and secured. All of the cobblestones need to be grouted with stone dust.
- C. Two memorial stones need to be up righted and reset.
- D. The erosion along the edges of the cobblestones needs to be stabilized.
- E. The cemetery has yet to be mowed and requires mowing ASAP.
- F. As discussed at the last Cemetery Commission Meeting, member Milenski obtained a quotation to remove four stumps. (\$350.00 / stump – Harding Enterprises).
- G. As discussed at the last Cemetery Commission Meeting, member Milenski obtained a compost sample from Busy Bee Nurseries to show the commissioners. The reasoning being that the compost would be an acceptable alternative to brightly colored mulch which is not permitted for use near the memorial stones. Member, Steele suggested that the Cemetery Department make the compost available at no cost to Princeton citizens for mulching and planting near memorial stones.

**Meetinghouse Cemetery:**

- A. As discussed at the last Cemetery Commission Meeting, member Milenski obtained a quotation to prune the dead wood out of two trees. (\$800.00 / tree – Harding Enterprises).

## **Boylston Cemetery:**

H. As discussed at the last Cemetery Commission Meeting, member Milenski obtained a quotation to remove a large tree. (\$2,000.00 – Harding Enterprises).

### **Review of March 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

The meeting minutes for March 12, 2018 were reviewed.

A motion was made by member, Milenski to accept the minutes as written.  
The motion was seconded by member, Grettum.  
Minutes were accepted and approved. Vote : 4 – 0.

### **Review of March 22, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

The meeting minutes for March 22, 2018 were reviewed.

A motion was made by member, Grettum to accept the minutes as written.  
The motion was seconded by member, Milenski.  
Minutes were accepted and approved. Vote : 4 – 0.

### **Review of April 2018 Meeting Minutes**

The meeting minutes for April 2018 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 and approved. Vote : 4 – 0.

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

Chairperson Grettum reported that a meeting was held with Richard Hume, owner of New England Acreage Group, Inc. Lynne and Bruce Rollins represented the Princeton Cemetery Department. At the time of the meeting the mowing schedule which is documented in the bid documents has not been maintained. Both Lynne and Bruce noted that the performance by New England Acreage Group, Inc. has been unsatisfactory to date. Richard Hume reported that his company will complete all cemetery mowing on May 25 and 26, 2018 to prepare the cemeteries for the “Memorial Day” weekend.

Chairperson, Grettum also reported that New England Acreage Group, Inc. has completed one burial and completed the loaming and seeding of the Greene gravesite. The Greene burial took place in December 2017.

Chairperson, Grettum also reported that Bruce Rollins is no longer serving as the “Temporary Cemetery Superintendent” and that there are two applicants for the “Permanent Cemetery Superintendent”. The Town Administrator has requested that two members of the Cemetery Commission participate in the interviews with the two applicants. Member, Steele will participate with the interviews and member, Trostel will be contacted to be the second participant.

Member, Milenski motioned that pending a capable and competent “Permanent Cemetery Superintendent” is indentified and agreed upon during the upcoming interviews with the Town Administrator and two Cemetery Commission Members that the Town Administrator can proceed and hire a “Permanent Cemetery Superintendent”.

The motion was seconded by member, Constantino.  
The motion passed. Vote: 4 – 0.

### **Fiscal Year 2018 Projects**

Chairperson, Grettum mentioned that she would confirm the budget amount that is available for projects for our June meeting.

A suggestion was made to place maintenance work items such as the removal of a large tree at Boylston Cemetery (\$2,000.00) and tree pruning at Meetinghouse Cemetery (\$1,600.00) on the Town Warrant.

### **Senior Work Off Program**

Chairperson Grettum reported that the “Senior Work Off Program” will be reevaluated and a new program should be developed by July 1, 2018. The features of the new “Senior Work Off” program will include: job descriptions, a new application process, an increase from \$750.00 to \$800.00 and overall better stability and management of the program.

### **Other Business**

Chairperson, Grettum mentioned that she would have a discussion with the Highway Superintendent, Glen Lyons regarding replacing the damaged and unsightly guard rails near South Cemetery along Ball Hill Road. She will also discuss the possibility of paving the entrance to Woodlawn Cemetery with Glen Lyons.

Chairperson, Grettum also mentioned that most of our neighboring towns have maintained their pricing for burial lot sales and grave openings. Some towns do charge a premium for weekend burials. A discussion occurred related to raising the price for Saturday burials. (Note: the Princeton Cemetery Department does not perform burials on Sunday.) The price for cremation burials was raised last year and will remain at that price.

Member, Steele motioned to raise the price for full body burials that take place on Saturdays to \$800.00.

The motion was seconded by member, Milenski.  
The motion passed. Vote: 4 – 0.

Chairperson, Grettum also reported that two burial lots were sold in South Cemetery and \$1,200.00 was collected as revenue.

### **Green Burials – Agenda Item – June 2018**

Chairperson, Grettum reported that the subject of “Green Burials” was brought to her attention by a town resident and that she would like to include it as an agenda item for the June meeting.

### **June 30, 2018 - End of Three Cemetery Committee Members Terms**

Chairperson Grettum reported that the terms of three Cemetery Commission members: Trostel, Constantino and herself end on June 30, 2018. She reported that she would not continue as a Commission member. Member Trostel was not present at the meeting, so his continued participation as a committee member is undetermined. Member, Constantino is likely to continue as a Cemetery Commission member.

### **Burial Lot Inventory**

Member Steele again mentioned that it would be valuable and important to have an accurate total inventory of the burial lots available for sale at all cemeteries. Chairperson, Grettum reported that she would have the inventory available for the June meeting.

### **Next Meeting – June 11, 2018**

Chairperson Grettum set the time and date for the next meeting on June 11, 2018. An inspection of Parker II Cemetery will commence at 6:30 P.M. with an inspections of West Cemetery to follow directly after. The monthly meeting will follow the cemetery inspections.

Member Milenski motioned to adjourn.  
Seconded by Member Constantino.  
Motion Passed: 4 – 0.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Submitted by Ron Milenski, Secretary  
PCCminutes 6.7.2018