

Princeton Cemetery Commission Meeting – Monday December 16, 2019
Town Hall Annex - Small Meeting Room
Minutes

January 12, 2019

Present: Charlie Steele, Paul Constantino, Greg Miranda, Lynne Grettum and Cemetery Superintendent, Bill Bergstrom

Absent: Lou Trostel

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steele at the Town Hall Annex – Small Meeting Room at 7:04 P.M.

Review of November 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The minutes for November 18, 2019 were reviewed.

A motion was made by member, Miranda to accept the minutes as amended.

The motion was seconded by member, Constantino.

The motion passed. Vote: 3 – 0.

Election of Member to Fill Partial Term

The early resignation of former-member Ron Milenski left an opening on the Commission for the remaining portion of his term (ending 2020). Former Commission member and chairman, Lynne Grettum, volunteered to fill out the remainder.

A motion was made by chairman, Steele to accept Lynne Grettum as Cemetery Commission member, to fill the open position for the remainder of member Milenski's term.

The motion was seconded by member, Constantino.

The motion passed. Vote: 3 – 0.

Cemetery Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bergstrom reported that the cemeteries are closed for the winter season and funerals are done for the year.

He is currently spending time researching issues regarding green burials.

FY 2021 Budget

Level funding is forecast for the upcoming financial year budget. Superintendent, Bergstrom expects that should be sufficient for ongoing operations.

Superintendent, Bergstrom inquired whether a pickup truck could be made available to assist in his work to occasionally move materials at the cemetery grounds. It was suggested that the town highway department might be able to lend an appropriate vehicle.

MS Access Database/Cemetery Management Software (CMS)

Member, Grettum has already been assisting with organizing physical records at town hall relating to the Cemetery Commission. She will continue with that work and assisting with the existing MS Access database.

It is the general consensus of the Committee that there is a real need for the town to purchase a cemetery management software package in order to manage and maintain cemetery records. The existing Access database is incomplete and incapable of meeting current record keeping standards.

It was noted that some local towns, such as West Boylston, are already using CMS programs, and that it would be helpful to obtain feedback. Member, Grettum will ask the Town Clerk to query other towns regarding their use of CMS, to assemble a list for the Committee to consider. There is some urgency to the decision-making process if a software package is to be chosen in time for the annual Town Meeting, as the purchase expense would probably require approval as a separate budget item.

Green Burials

Superintendent, Bergstrom is continuing his research into the regulations and practices of other Massachusetts towns that currently permit green burial methods. He is currently planning to travel to Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA early in the coming year, to meet in-person with their manager to discuss their green burial program. Further discussion by the Committee is on hold while waiting for results of his investigations.

Lot Sale Limits

There was a question carried over from the previous meeting regarding the number of lots contained within the Anderson plot at Woodlawn Cemetery. Member, Grettum remembered the situation from her previous time serving as Town Clerk and Cemetery Commission Chairman, and confirmed that only 11 lots exist in the plot.

As part of the discussion, it was noted that historically not all lot purchases were exactly defined in terms of size.

Items not anticipated by the Chair 48 hours before meeting

No items were brought up by the members.

Next Meeting – January 13, 2020

Chairman Steele set the time and date for the next meeting, 7:00 P.M. on January 13, 2020 at the Town Hall Annex - Small Meeting Room.

Member, Miranda motioned to adjourn.

Seconded by Member, Constantino.

Motion Passed: 4 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 P.M.