

Hopkinton Cemetery Trustees

Nullus Vivere Relinquit

Minutes of

October 17, 2019

At the Hopkinton Town Hall at 8:30 AM

Present: Chair Lynn Clark, Judy Hampe, Gayle Kimball, and Sexton Joe Tristaino.

Chair Clark called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

The Minutes of September 19 and October 3, 2019 were approved as circulated.

There were no financial reports to review. We are waiting to hear from Town Administrator Cass if the Town will be taking over the lawn maintenance duties currently contracted to Pinnacle Landscaping.

Sexton Tristaino reviewed his written report. The Putney Hill Cemetery repairs are completed for this year. Some minor work will be completed in the spring. There is not yet a final bill from Perry Monuments. Repairs are still to be made to the New Hopkinton Cemetery water turn off valve; otherwise, all the cemeteries have been readied for winter. The cemeteries will remain open until after Veteran's Day weekend, and there are services scheduled. Although the cemeteries are officially closed for burials as of November 1, if weather permits and a request made, burial/s will be accommodated through Nov 12. Sexton Tristaino discovered two broken monuments in the front of Old Hopkinton Cemetery. He reported that stones which have been previously repaired appear to be particularly vulnerable to breakage. It is unclear if a tree can be planted in or near the memorial garden in Contoocook. The planned tree for the center of the garden is not possible. Sienna Larson is planning to replace the annuals in the center of the garden with perennial plants next spring in lieu of the planned tree. Trustee Kimball agreed to contact former Trustee Susan Lawless about the fountain.

There was discussion surrounding the enforcement of rules and regulations. A letter will be drafted, it's intent to inform a Right to Burial holder, who has been previously verbally spoken to, that they need to follow the rules regarding decoration and maintenance of burial plots. If no, any costs in remediation incurred by the Trustees will be billed to the Right to Burial holder in question. Sexton Tristaino will collect any wind chimes in all the cemeteries and store them in the sheds.

In response to outreach from Alita Paine in preparation of an upcoming Learning from History Forum being planned by the Hopkinton Historical Society, the Town's Human Resources Manager Marilyn Ceriello-Bresaw was invited to join the meeting. The topic discussed was pauper burials. Ms. Ceriello-Bresaw said that State law requires the Town to pay for burial if no one else steps

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forward. Unless against religious custom, she makes arrangements with the Concord Funeral Home for cremation at a cost of \$1,000. To her knowledge, no burial has been requested for the Town cemeteries. After a brief discussion, the Trustees agreed that a memorial plot should be made available if requested, and the Town should be billed for the cost of the required headstone marker. The current cost of the marker is \$150-\$175.

Chair Lynn reported that she has discussed Greenway trail signage with Bob LaPree. Mr. LaPree has suggested that the Greenway signage in the Contoocook cemetery should be painted on the roadway. It was agreed that this was acceptable, and might prove to be helpful as walker

would use the roadway signage and car drivers would be reading directional signs that are currently on stakes in the ground.

The opening of the Little Tooky Trail is scheduled for October 27.

A timeline for our long-term goals was tentatively planned:

- Inclusion of interesting and historically significant graves on a brochure that includes other Hopkinton points of historical interest – Spring 2020 beginning with Contoocook to tie in with the Greenway (Clark)
- Continue to clean up the forms used during the sale of plots and make sure the process is clear to all – Draft by spring 2020 (Hampe)
- Research Green Burial regulations - 2021
- Cabling & upkeep of big maples in Old Hopkinton Cemetery – quote to be obtained in spring 2020 (Tristaino)
- Establishing an arboretum in Old Hopkinton Cemetery – next steps to be ascertained in spring 2020 (Hampe)
- Incorporating Old Hopkinton Cemetery into the Hopkinton Village Greenway - 2019
- Map of Old Hopkinton Cemetery – scheduled for spring 2020
- Meeting with Trustees of the Trust Funds – to be scheduled asap

A check and purchase for a memorial plot was received. Deb Gallant asked if the form could be revised and reduced to the front of one page which would help clarify that the form need to be signed by a Trustee. Of the \$450.00 purchase fee, \$200 will be allocated to the purchase price/revenue and \$250 will be allocated to the Trust Funds.

Chair Clark agreed to contact Bonnie Cressey the clerk for the Trustees of the Trust Funds to arrange for a joint meeting pertaining chiefly to the December 21, 2005 Cy Pres agreement.

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The next Meeting of the Trustees will take place on November 21 at 1:00 p.m. at Hopkinton Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.