

Hopkinton Cemetery Trustees
Nullus Vivere Relinquit
Meeting of October 7, 2022

Present: Judy Hampe, Gayle Kimball, and Sexton Joe Tristaino in person, Lynn Clark on Zoom.

Judy Hampe called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Hopkinton Town Hall.

The Minutes of the October 7, 2022 meeting were approved as circulated, with Lynn Clark abstaining due to her absence from the meeting.

Sexton Tristaino reported that he has obtained a bid for the removal of the huge tree that was felled in Old Hopkinton Cemetery during the recent storm. Although the Town Highway Department had offered to help remove part of the tree, it was beyond the reach of the Town's equipment. It was agreed that Yankee Tree should be retained to remove the tree and also restore any fallen headstones to an upright position for the sum of \$2,500.

A brief discussion on trees and the budget for removal, trimming, and cabling followed. It was agreed to revisit the topic in the spring after a more recent report from the Trustees of the Trust Fund might be available. This item, along with the purchase of new trees for the Old Hopkinton Cemetery will be added to the long range strategic plan.

A lengthy discussion on the expiration of the Pinnacle Landscape Services contract was held. The contract for mowing and maintenance services of the cemeteries was last put out to bid in 2016. Although not required, there was discussion about the merits of putting the contract out to bid, although to the best of the trustees knowledge, there have been no inquiries from prospective vendors. It was agreed that Pinnacle should be asked for a one-year contract while the merits and process for the bid process was further explored.

There was a continuation of the discussion about buy-back policy for cemetery plots. It was affirmed that the policy will stand that we are willing to buy back plots for the original asking price. The Sexton is authorized to communicate same to prospective sellers and to ask for their original paperwork, if available. The final decision must be ratified at a trustee meeting to allow for the review of the budget and trust funds.

It was agreed that the price of a memorial lot be increased from \$450 to \$525 to pass through the increased cost of obtaining the required stone tablet. The \$650 current price of a burial plot and \$2,800 price of a burial lot was affirmed. Chair Clark will update the policy/booklet available online.

Chair Clark will prepare the Annual Report and the pricing for the plots/lots will be included. Sexton Tristaino reported that during 2022 a total of 56 plots were sold. 41 internments took place, and these were comprised of 7 full caskets and 34 cremations.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 23 at 10 a.m. at Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gayle Kimball
Secretary