

MINUTES OF : Meeting of the Cemetery Commissioners

*EVR*

MEETING POSTED: YES

DATE: 4/8/2009 TIME: 2:00pm PLACE: Kennedy Service Bldg

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brewster Conant, Bill Klauer

ALSO PRESENT: Tom Tidman, Shawn O'Malley, Allura Overstreet

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MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT: 2:05pm

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Ella Campbell lot Mt. Hope Lot 367 Section 3 – Shawn spoke with Ella's daughter and all have come to the following agreement. Shawn has agreed to move the row of flush markers back from the street. The 2 future full interments will go into the lot from left to right, and the tree will remain. Motion made to accept the resolution; seconded; passed.
2. Last months minutes accepted and signed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Dangerous Trees – Shawn advises that in the course of pruning trees; 2 trees in Woodlawn and 4 in Mt. Hope were found to be seriously diseased and decaying. The Commissioners were advised that they will have to consider the expense of removal in the near future.
2. The High Schools drama department has requested to use the Chapel and Woodlawn Cemetery as the setting for Acts 2 & 3 of the play "Our Town". The attached email gives more details. The Commissioners propose no fee for the use of the Chapel which will have to be presented to the Board of Selectmen for their approval. Any overtime will have to be billed. Motion made to accept the request with details to be ironed out later. Motion made; seconded, passed. Mr. Tidman will email the petitioners with information and an invitation to the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting to address any questions concerning the October 31<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> performances.

CITIZEN CONCERNS:

NONE

Meeting adjourned at: 2:45PM

Next meeting scheduled for: 5/13/2009

## Allura Overstreet

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**From:** James Sheehan [jfsheehan51@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 07, 2009 2:17 PM  
**To:** Cemetery Department  
**Cc:** Linda Potter; James Sheehan  
**Subject:** Theatre Group Request

James Sheehan  
12 Berry Lane  
Acton, MA 01720  
Tuesday, April 07, 2009

Town of Acton Cemetery Commission  
Acton Town Hall  
472 Main St  
Acton, MA 01720

Dear Cemetery Commission Chairperson,

The Acton-Boxborough Regional High School's award-winning Proscenium Circus drama program is planning to produce the play *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder in the fall of 2009. The play is considered a great American classic and will be directed by Dr. Maureen Shea, one of the finest directors in the Boston area. For eleven years, Dr. Shea served as chairperson for the Theatre Department at Emerson College in Boston, and is now a Professor of Theatre at Emerson College. Linda Potter, Proscenium Circus advisor, will be serving as executive producer for the production and I, James Sheehan, will be producing the play.

*Our Town* is normally set in Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, a fictional town based on Peterborough, Dublin, Jaffrey, and several other towns in the New Hampshire Monadnock Region. However, Dr. Shea would like to base the play in Acton, circa 1901, as there are many similarities between the two towns.

In order to fully conceive Dr. Shea's vision for the show, she would like to set Act II and Act III in Acton's Woodlawn Cemetery and in the adjacent stone chapel. The show would be performed five times, but we would only transport the audience for one or two matinee performances, currently scheduled for Saturday, October 31 and Sunday, November 1 at 2:00pm. She feels that it would be a very powerful experience for many people, especially for those who have lost loved ones in the past.

The audience would be transported via the Acton-Boxborough school bus service from the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School to the cemetery during the intermission, which would occur between Act I and Act II. The audience would then be transported back to the high school by bus at the end of the play. It is estimated that there would be anywhere between 200 and 400 people in attendance at the show each day, and the staff and I would work with you to make this happen, if you believe this is possible.

Linda Potter and I will be meeting in Boston with Dr. Shea this coming Friday, April 10, so it

would be much appreciated if we could have some more information by then.

Please feel free to contact Linda Potter via phone or email (978-264-4700, extension 3584, PotterLL@aol.com) or James Sheehan (JFSheehan51@yahoo.com, 508-517-1223) with questions or concerns regarding the show and the director's vision.

Sincerely,

James Sheehan