



Cemetery Commission Minutes

MEETING POSTED: YES

DATE: 2/28/2024, TIME: 2:00 pm

PLACE: virtual

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe Will, Bill Klauer, Dana Snyder-Grant, Franny Osman

ALSO PRESENT: Alissa Nicol, Corey York, Shawn O'Malley, Kim Clark

1. Opening

Chair Joe Will opened the meeting at 2:00 pm.

2. Regular Business

Minutes from 1/25/2024 were **accepted** as written.

3. New/Special Business

1. Public concerns: Franny stated that she is resigning as an Associate Commissioner due to conflict of her writing for the local online newspaper, "The Acton Exchange".

2. Admin updates: None.

3. Dana Johnson requested that the Cemetery Department divide his family's 4-grave (unpaid, but with two interments) lot into two 2-grave lots so that the two unused graves could be used by others outside of his family. Kim had shared related documents with the Commission prior to the meeting, including a notice of denial by the Cemetery Commission on August 13, 1997, of an identical request by Mr. Johnson. After thorough discussion, Bill made a motion to deny the request due to the Cemetery rule of not splitting a multiple-grave lot once it had at least one interment. Motion was seconded and passed 3-0. Alissa advised that the Commission send a letter to Mr. Johnson advising him of the decision.

4. Capital budget: This coming year there will be a request for the purchase of a new truck for the Cemetery Department. Kim stated that on average the Cemetery Trusts earn about \$24k a quarter in income. This coming year the Commissioners have already committed to \$20k in paving (to match the Town's commitment of \$20k) along with \$50k to go towards the Town's FY25 cemetery budget.

5. Paving at Woodlawn Cemetery: Bids are in and right now the contract is being signed. The work should start in Spring, 2024.

6. Mt Hope maintenance: Acton Conservation Trust (ACT) is helping to create a "Rainbow Trail" for children on the Conservation Land (ACT holding the Conservation Restriction) abutting Mt. Hope on its west side. There is concern about the graffiti that's on the back side of a cemetery shed that would be visible to trail users. Ian Bergemann, Acton's Land Steward Coordinator, is working with the ACT to paint the back of the shed and build a small stick fence that would limit access to the shed.

7. Signage at Mt Hope: Joe has learned that several dog owners are confused by the message "Dogs not allowed within the cemetery" on the 2022 signage bordering the Mt. Hope woodlands where dog walking is still allowed. He proposed that an additional message "Dogs allowed on woodland trails only" be attached to the few signs that border the Mt.



Hope woodlands. Dana made a motion to that effect. Joe seconded. Motion passed 2-1 (Joe, Dana yes; Bill no). Joe will consult with Shawn on how to proceed.

8. Monument cleaning: Permission sought from Commission to have Ephraim, Martha and Susan Oliver's monument cleaned (pictured at right, Woodlawn Section 4, lot 10). Bill made a motion, Dana seconded, and the Commission approved 3-0.

9. Preserve Woodlawn Gates CPA project: At its 2/27 meeting, the CPC members were in agreement on this project's requested funding amount. The CPC will not vote to approve any funding until decisions are made on all submitted projects, possibly as early as its March 13 meeting.



4. Consent Items.

1. Bill made a motion to appropriate \$4300 from appropriate trust funds for the removal of 6 hazardous trees from Mt Hope Cemetery. Joe seconded. Approved 3-0.

5. Additional Regular Business

Next month's agenda items: Cemetery Capital Budget.

Adjournment

At 3:03 pm, it was moved, seconded and voted 3-0 to adjourn the meeting.
Next meeting is scheduled for 3/27/2024 via Zoom.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

Meeting minutes from 1/25/2024.

Dana Johson emails and invoices.

Cemetery Capital Budget spreadsheet.