

Cemetery Commission

Minutes of the Meeting – Monday June 26, 2017

The meeting of the Harwich Cemetery Commission was at the Cemetery Office 100 Oak Street, Harwich. Commissioner Chair Cynthia Eldredge, Commissioners Wilfred Remillard, Paul Doane and Administrator Robbin Kelley were in attendance.

Meeting Called to Order at 8:15 a.m. by Cynthia Eldredge.

Approval of the Minutes

Wilfred Remillard approved the minutes of April 24, 2017 and it was seconded by Cynthia Eldredge.

Correspondence from Town Hall & Associations

1. Letter from Sister Helen Anne Wolk conveying her cemetery lots to her niece.
2. Email from Katie McCue to Robbin Kelley on her acceptance into Suffolk Certificate Program starting Friday 15th of September 2017.
3. Letter from Amu Usowski on flagging on the bordering vegetated wetland around the lily pond has been completed.
4. Letter from Charlene Miranda Fisher on her family plot in Island Pond Cemetery. Wilfred Remillard makes motion to not approve an additional bench as a upright memorial is already on the lot and does not conform with the Rules and Regulations for memorialization, it was seconded by Paul Doane. It was a unanimous vote.
5. Internal Control Procedures over Departmental Expenditures FY2017 per MGL Chapter #41 S/S/58 dated May 19 and June 14 of 2017.
6. Monthly Revenue reports FY 2017 Year to Date from May 19 and June 14 of 2017
7. Email from Wendy Tullock on End of Year Closing. Paul Doane makes motion to review all Cemetery Accounts, including the Perpetual Care Account, Pine Grove Association Funds and Reports with the Town Treasurer it was seconded by Wilfred Remillard. It was a unanimous vote.
8. Email from Paula Champagne on legal request of designation of Pet Cemetery from the Board of Health. Response from Paula John Giorgio asked me to respond to your request for a legal opinion referenced above. You have requested an opinion regarding the role if any the Board of Health has under General Laws, chapter 114, in the establishment of a pet cemetery. In my opinion, General Laws, Chapter 114 does not apply to the burial of animals or the establishment of pet cemeteries. Section 1 of Chapter 114, specifically defines a “cemetery” as “an area of land set aside and dedicated for the final disposition of the remains of a deceased **person**.” Given the specific reference to the burial of a deceased **person** versus the burial of an animal or pet in the definition of a “cemetery” contained in Section 1, in my opinion all references to a cemetery in Chapter 114 refer to the burial of human remains and not to the burial of pets.

9. Paula Doane makes motion for the Cemetery Administrator to search for names for the pet burial ground, it was seconded by Wilfred Remillard. It was a unanimous vote.
10. Old Business Carbonneau Lot layout has been completed in Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Kelley Cemetery Deeds and Land Survey is still ongoing waiting on Paul Sweetser.
11. New Business Wilfred Remillard makes a motion to address the recent erosion at Island Pond Cemetery since the removal of dead trees. It was seconded by Paul Doane to look into possible solutions and to visit the all the cemeteries to address maintenance issues. It was a unanimous vote.
12. Gall Wasps and Gypsy Moths have returned to the cemeteries a request to have the trees sprayed by Arbortech. Paul Doane makes a motion not to have the trees sprayed as it is too late in the season and the damage has already been done, it was seconded by Wilfred Remillard who states that is should be put on a schedule for next May to be sprayed. It was a unanimous vote.
13. Paul Doane makes the motion we adhere to the expenditure of the bid process and approve the Strip/Loam & Seed for the Pet Burial Grounds, it was seconded by Cynthia Eldredge and was a unanimous vote.
14. New Deed for Thomas & Janet O'Leary in Evergreen for 109* Nickerson Avenue for \$800.00.
15. New Deed for Douglas & Mary Walsh for 216 Pond Grove Island Pond Cemetery for \$500.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robbin Kelley,
Cemetery Administrator