

Cemetery Commission
Minutes of the Meeting – November 2, 2021

The meeting of the Harwich Cemetery Commission was held at the Donn. B. Griffin Room, Town Hall, 732 Main Street, Harwich and was taped. Commissioners Steve Conner, Cynthia Eldredge, Robert Thompson, and Administrator Robbin Kelley were in attendance.

Meeting Called to Order at 9:05 a.m. by Steven Conner.

Minutes for the September 28th meeting were not approved.

Email from Jan Moore on presentation of East Harwich Union Cemetery Preservation project to Community Preservation Committee on Thursday, December 9, 2021. The administrator will attend and present to the CPC.

Email from Elizabeth Ausmus on Mausoleum. Discussion on the location that would be appropriate for the installation of a small mausoleum to hold two full-body burials, Island Pond already has one already installed by the Haidas Family. Pictures of their mausoleum were included in the packet for review. Robert Thompson makes a motion to approve for installation of the mausoleum with conditions that the area be viewed with commissioners to see appropriateness for the cemetery in which it is to be installed, it was seconded by Cynthia Eldredge and was unanimous.

Email from Catlin Jones Massachusetts Archives on Veterans from Civil War and Revolutionary War. They do not have a master list of veterans listed by Town. Catlin sent an email with a website that can be used for research.

Email from Carole Freehauf on the removal of Evergreen Trees next to her parent's lot in Mount Pleasant. Trees have been removed by the DPW.

Judi Sitkin, reports that at the Peace Garden in Evergreen Cemetery there is sign at which states "Masks Must Be Worn." Discussion on her email which was read into the meeting. There are many Harwich residents and visitors who enjoy the Peace Garden (in Evergreen Cemetery), sit on the granite benches to rest, eat lunch, and chat with friends. As you know, a good many are exercising themselves and their dogs. Now with the paved connector between the Rt 39 access and the original, mostly ancient, section off Rt 137 where the garden is located, there are more travelers passing through (by foot, bicycle, vehicle). The "Masks Must Be Worn" sign that abuts the spigot in the garden does two things: deters visitors and makes working in that location by Garden Club volunteers difficult because the entrance area is narrowed. A great, perfect location for that sign is directly behind the trash bin (the west-facing opening between the invasive species burning bushes. The sign wording would not be blocked, and it gives the trash bin a specific spot to be parked. The administrator responded to Judi, I have forwarded this email to the Board of Health director we might be able to take the sign down as it is an outside venue, I will forward her email once it is received by me. Also, there is no dog walking allowed in any cemetery. It is posted and we have the dog officer checking. There is a \$50.00 fine if someone is caught walking within the cemetery.

Email to Board of Health, "Do we need the signs at the cemeteries stating that Masks Must Be Worn, as this is an outside venue. Katie O'Neill, Health Director, "No, masks are no longer a requirement." The administrator sent a work order into DPW for the removal of signs at cemeteries.

New England Cemetery Annual Management Seminar December 6th to the 8th. Discussion on management seminar Commissioners might be interested in attending on Tuesday, December 7th Natural Burial and Green

Burial Applications, Environmentally Friendly & Sustainable Turfgrass. Robert Thompson makes a motion that the Administrator attends the 3 days it was seconded by Steve Conner and was unanimous.

Email from Joan Jones on plot plan for her private cemetery located at 4 Jilfrey Way in Harwich. The administrator was unaware of this private cemetery but was able to locate documents at the Barnstable County Registry of Deed. It was approved by the Harwich Board of Health in 2009.

Email for Meggan Eldredge on Cemetery Revolving Accounts for Board of Selectmen Meeting. Quarterly Reports were created by the Administrator and submitted for the Board of Selectmen packet.

Email from Bobbi Moritz on grant opportunity for Mass Trails. Barnstable country grand office sends over grants that the Town might be interested in applying for Administrator will review grant guidelines to see if it is something that she will want to pursue.

Email from Clarke W. Hammersley for the burial of father's ashes. The administrator surveyed the lot and sent the lot layout to Mr. Hammersley for review. He will contact Town when he will be having interment.

Letter from Rev. Faith Lavender on her services. Discussion on having materials in the office to be handed out, but not to have a list of vendors that are recommended by commissioners.

Update on Veterans Memorial in Evergreen, Email from Robert Thompson on Researching Gold Star Family Memorial. Robert has sent out emails to Gold Star Mothers, Massachusetts Fallen Hero's, and Representative Xiarhos. He will update the board when he receives responses.

Conservation Commission approval for connecting Marceline Arboretum land, Island Pond Cemetery to Conservation parcel. Approval for the creation of connector trail and installation of split rail fence was approved at the October 20th meeting. Continuance on Lily Pond pruning until October 3rd and to provide a map of the area to be pruned.

Rules and Regulations Review was not addressed at the meeting and the commission added an additional meeting on November 16th for this review.

New Deeds: Alexander & Norma Spezzafero Evergreen \$800.00, Robert B. & Carolyn E. Porter Island Pond \$600.00, Thomas H. Jr & Harriet M Quill Island Pond \$900.00, Rebekah L. Eldridge Evergreen \$800.00, William G. & Barbara B. Lionetta Mount Pleasant \$3,200.00, Kenneth Keenan Mount Pleasant \$800.00 and Frances Kennedy Evergreen \$800.00.

Robert Thompson made motion to adjourn at 9:51, it was seconded by Cynthia Eldredge and was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robbin Kelley,
Cemetery Administrator

Approved at November 16, 2021 Meeting