

Cemetery Commission of Frankestown

Minutes of Meeting Of January 27, 2022

Present Polly Freese, Ethel Mac Stubbs and Bridget Howell
Meeting commenced 10:10 a.m.

- Minutes of last meeting (12/2/2021) approved.
- Budget for 2022 agreed upon unanimously.
- Report from Polly: 3 wreaths purchase from the Carbees for No. 3 gates @ \$76 plus one for Cem. No. 2. Out of Cemetery Budget Gate on No. 3 blew open, wreath lost, Scott purchased another. Bolt replaced (cost to town).
- Holes for gate posts (No. 3) paved over by road crew and Polly will contact town about fixing that.
- Ethel did write letter to Gilmans inviting them to meeting (they had expressed interest in helping with cemetery). No answer and she will follow up again.

Green Burials:

- As committee, agreement to do more due diligence before adopting rules for Cemetery No. 3. Ethel notes she has had elderly people ask/wanting Green Burial option and our rules are not consistent with green burial.
- Bridget reported on telephone conference with green burial expert Lee Webster and passed out copied materials she sent for other trustees.
- Agreed first priority is to focus on exploring idea of Cem No. 3 as “hybrid” cemetery . Second stage (we will work on that later) is to possibly use some of property on West side of Turnpike as dedicated space for only green burials.
- Bridget notes we **do not** need town ordinance passed on first priority (i.e. to draft Cem. No. 3 green burial rule changes) . However, trustees agree we should to keep town up to date when decision is made. Bridget thinks, as to second stage (former Taylor property) we need Select Board approval to designate which part of that property could be used and to implement (eg build road) but Trustees agree that is “down the road” (no pun intended) so no action needed on that score yet).

- Action items:
- **Bridget** will send out email blast to NH Cemetery Association asking for info from town with hybrid cemeteries
- **Bridget** will work on proposed rules and try to figure out if terrain is problem (get more names of experts).
- **Ethel** distributed to us rules from Green Mount cemetery in Vt and will visit there when weather permits
- Agreed we need sexton on board before rules and policy enacted. **Polly** is exploring some issues on sexton.
- Misc issues discussed but not resolved: eg i) how to handle any sinkage (it is noted that we have that issue already as wooden caskets decay) and do we hire someone to fill the sinkage or get volunteers?),ii) liability issues (eg contact insurer?), iii) charge more for green burial due to possible sinkage, as some towns do (Green Mount).
- We all want to visit in Spring other NH “hybrid” cemeteries. Ethel suggests Mt Auburn, too.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m. Next meeting February 17, 2022.