

**Town of Concord  
Cemetery Committee Meeting  
August 4, 2021  
135 Keyes Road**

Members Present: Mr. Leo Carroll  
Mr. Brian Davidson  
Mr. Rod Riedel  
Ms. Rebecca Purcell

Also Present: Mr. Aaron Miklosko - Highway & Grounds Superintendent  
Ms. Patricia Hopkins – Cemetery Supervisor  
Ms. Justine St. John – Administrative Assistant for Highway & Grounds  
Ms. Linda Escobedo – Select Board Liaison

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

- A-1** The meeting was called to order at 4:09pm. Jerry Soucy was absent.
- A-2** Mr. Miklosko entertained a motion to elect a Chair and Vice Chair, as both positions are currently vacant. Mr. Davidson suggested Leo Carroll as Chair, and nominated him as such. Mr. Riedel seconded. It was voted as follows to approve:

Leo Carroll – Aye  
Rod Riedel – Aye  
Rebecca Purcell-Aye  
Brian Davidson – Aye

Committee decided to wait until at the next meeting where there is full attendance before voting on Vice-Chair. Meeting was turned over to Mr. Carroll as the newly elected Chair.

- A-3** It was announced that the meeting was being audio recorded.
- A-4** Eleven deeds submitted for signing.
- A-5** Next Meeting will be September 1, 2021 at 4:00PM
- A-6** Meeting Minutes from June 2, 2021 were approved.

Rod Riedel moved to approve the June 2, 2021 minutes, Brian Davidson seconded and it was voted as follows to approve:

Rod Riedel – Aye  
Leo Carroll - Aye  
Rebecca Purcell – Aye  
Brian Davidson – Aye

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

**D-1: CHAIR COMMENTS:**

Mr. Carroll thanks the Cemetery staff for loaming an area in Sleepy Hollow (the Bull lot), to see if it could potentially help with the erosion issue. He observed that one of the diseased hemlock trees had been taken down, and his hope for the future is to develop some kind of succession plan for when trees either fall or are taken down. Also wondering how to keep trees trimmed to reduce the possible damage to stones by falling, dead limbs. He also is concerned about the potential for large trees that could fall without giving any signs of distress ahead of time. Wondering if there is a way trees could sporadically be tested.

#### **D-2: STAFF REPORT:**

Highway Superintendent Miklosko reported the new Rules and Regulations including the mausoleum information has been added to the Town website. Staff is working on loaming in the Cemetery. Staff worked on tree removal and tree clean up in the Cemetery. Daedalus came out to get more detail for their maintenance proposal and he anticipates the department will get that shortly. Staff has solicited quotes for the headstone restoration program and to date has received two quotes back. Hoping for work on that to begin in the fall. Mausoleum sites in the new section have been marked out and the survey was completed by Engineering. Stone walls have been looked at by Engineering and they are working to put together a cost estimate for a third party to come in and help prioritize. There is an inventory that will be used as a starting point. Mr. Miklosko reported the records scanning project is on-going. The vendor is still finalizing documents to make sure it is accurate prior to being released to the public. Mr. Miklosko presented a proposal for signage coming from the Reformatory Branch trail: "Sleepy Hollow Cemetery is an active burial ground. Please use these grounds quietly and respectfully. Please keep to paved surfaces." Committee agreed to go ahead with the order.

Ms. Hopkins reported they have sold (4) lots and had (4) full interments and (13) cremation interments in the last 2 months.

#### **D-3: EIGHT GRAVE LOT PURCHASE REQUEST-SAYLES FAMILY**

Ms. Hopkins explained the request. Due to the amount of children they have, they would like to purchase 8 graves. Ms. Hopkins also explained that the regulations stipulate anything more than a purchase of 6 graves needs to be approved by the Cemetery Committee to make sure there can be oversight for larger purchases. Mr. Davidson asked about the duration of lot ownership-they own in perpetuity.

Leo Carroll made a motion to accept and approve the request, Rod Riedel seconded the motion and it was voted as follows to approve:

Rod Riedel – Aye  
Leo Carroll - Aye  
Rebecca Purcell – Aye  
Brian Davidson – Aye

#### **D-4: LOT REPURCHASE-MCWALTER FAMILY**

Ms. Hopkins spoke to this request. The family purchased (3) grave lots many years ago for their family. Since then, their needs have changed. They want to keep (1) grave lot for themselves, but they want to sell back the remaining two grave lot. They want to sell back J38 in Chestnut Hollow.

Brian Davidson made a motion to repurchase the McWalter grave lot, Leo Carroll seconded the motion and it was voted as follows to approve:

Rod Riedel – Aye  
Leo Carroll - Aye  
Rebecca Purcell – Aye  
Brian Davidson – Aye

**D-5: LOT REPURCHASE-REARWIN FAMILY**

Ms. Hopkins spoke to this request. The family had purchased a cremation lot in Chestnut Hollow. They have decided they want an upright headstone and a family lot so they would like to sell this back and purchase in the Knoll. They want to sell back K113 in Chestnut Hollow-4 grave cremation lot.

Brian Davidson made a motion to repurchase the Rearwin grave lot, Leo Carroll seconded the motion and it was voted as follows to approve:

Rod Riedel – Aye  
Leo Carroll - Aye  
Rebecca Purcell – Aye  
Brian Davidson – Aye

**D-6: COMMITTEE COMMENTS:**

Mr. Riedel spoke to his effort to learn more about the Cemetery and some of its challenges-erosion, loss of trees, etc. He would like to create a catalog of needs to be addressed. He is also wondering if any of these items could be paid for with a grant request. He would like to explore this more in the future. He also talked about his collaboration with Mr. Carroll to try to identify plant species growing successfully in the Cemetery. Mr. Davidson reported that a Blandings Turtle was nesting in the Knoll Area. He mentioned there was a Youtube video sponsored by the Concord Public Library, Stones Crying Out by John Hanson Mitchell that he enjoyed watching-it spoke about some epitaphs on stones. Historical Commission has been approached about greater recognition for the Prison Cemetery. He suggested possibly doing a tour of the Cemetery at some point-maybe September or October, depending on agenda items and weather. Mr. Miklosko said he would work on the logistics and would update the Committee members.

**D-7: PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Ms. Escobedo commented that she was gratified with how seriously the members took their charge. She suggested they may want to consider a CPC application for a larger project, like the stone walls. She also advised that as of late, there is a groundswell of support for the tree canopy in Concord. She suggested the committee consider that if they reached out, they might be able to get volunteers or funds for tree plantings.

**D-10: SUMMARY OF FOLLOW UP ITEMS**

Mr. Carroll would like to step back from being the liaison for the Friends of Sleepy Hollow. Rebecca Purcell volunteered to be the liaison. Mr. Davidson and Mr. Carroll spoke about the need for another member for the Columbarium Subcommittee. Additional follow up needed includes the third-party assessment of stone walls, repointing stone walls in the fall, and the award for the headstone restoration program. Mr. Carroll will also start to conduct his own research to get a baseline about bicycles riding over graves in the Cemetery. Mr. Riedel suggested they add prioritization of projects to the agenda for October.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Carroll made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 17:30 P.M. Mr. Davidson seconded. (4-0)

Rod Riedel – Aye  
Leo Carroll - Aye  
Rebecca Purcell – Aye  
Brian Davidson – Aye

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved,

Justine St. John  
Administrative Assistant, Highway & Grounds Division

Leo Carroll, Chairperson  
Cemetery Committee