

**Town of Concord
Cemetery Committee Meeting
September 1, 2021
Via Zoom**

Members Present: Mr. Leo Carroll
Mr. Brian Davidson
Mr. Rod Riedel
Mr. Jerry Soucy

Also Present: Mr. Aaron Miklosko - Highway & Grounds Superintendent
Ms. Patricia Hopkins – Cemetery Supervisor
Ms. Justine St. John – Administrative Assistant for Highway & Grounds
Mr. Mark Gailus-Resident
Mr. Ned Perry-Resident

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A-1 The meeting was called to order at 4:11pm. Rebecca Purcell was absent.

A-2 It was announced that the meeting was being audio/video recorded.

A-3 Jerry Soucy nominated Brian Davidson as Vice-Chair and Rod Riedel seconded. It was voted as follows to approve:

Leo Carroll – Aye
Rod Riedel – Aye
Jerry Soucy-Aye
Brian Davidson – Aye

Mr. Davidson also volunteered to be on the Columbarium subcommittee with Mr. Soucy. It was voted as follows to approve:

Leo Carroll – Aye
Rod Riedel – Aye
Jerry Soucy-Aye
Brian Davidson – Aye

A-4 Six deeds submitted for signing.

A-5 Next Meeting will be October 6, 2021 at 4:00PM

A-6 Meeting Minutes from August 4, 2021 were approved.

Brian Davidson moved to approve the August 4, 2021 minutes, Rod Riedel seconded and it was voted as follows to approve:

Rod Riedel – Aye
Leo Carroll - Aye
Jerry Soucy – Aye
Brian Davidson – Aye

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

D-1: CHAIR COMMENTS:

Mr. Carroll spoke to a report by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) regarding cemeteries and preservation guidelines. He was researching what other cemeteries were doing about issues such as tree replacement, ground cover issues, bicycles, damaged stones, etc and he found this comprehensive study. He thinks it could be a helpful tool and was hoping the members can look at it before the next meeting. He thanks Mr. Miklosko and Ms. Hopkins for their work with having loam put down on the Bull lot and other areas. He is seeing evidence of some of the grass sprouting. He has been watching for bicycle traffic over the areas and doesn't think it is commuter traffic but more of recreational traffic. Mr. Riedel spoke about a proposal he will be coming for with, to try to achieve a vegetation goal.

D-2: STAFF REPORT:

Mr. Miklosko reported they have sold (15) lots and had (1) full interment and (12) cremation interments in August. The headstone restoration process is moving forward. They had solicited three quotes and he is working to contract with Gravestone Services of NE LLC, their proposal was for just over \$9,000. They will start work in the fall and continue through the spring. There was a meeting with Boston Computer Scanning regarding the scanning project. Hoping to have that wrapped up later in the fall. The signs for the cemetery have been ordered and they are awaiting delivery. They have also received the updated quote from Daedalus for the cleaning of the Melvin, so he is working to get that scheduled. Cemetery staff worked with Einstein's on a loaming project. If needed, staff can touch up after the rain. Mr. Riedel asked if the company awarded the headstone restoration project was the same from last year-it is not. He also inquired about where in the cemetery the gravestones would be restored. Mr. Miklosko advised the contractors were given a list of preselected stones, chosen by Ms. Hopkins and Mr. Shaw. Mr. Riedel requested a list, just to see the priorities. Mr. Carroll asked about the location and information about the contractor.

D-3: NOLAN PERPETUAL CARE REQUEST/DISCUSSION:

Mr. Miklosko advised the petitioner wants to present in person and will wait until they have that opportunity.

D-4: PHOTOGRAPHY REQUEST:

Ms. Hopkins advised Mr. Harry Klane is working on a project digitally documenting gravestones where the date of death is 1799 or earlier. Her concern is his suggestion that he will clean stones with soft brushes or plastic scrapers if there are biological materials growing on them. Mr. Miklosko advised that this was a larger project, which is why the request is being brought to the Committee. From an operational standpoint, he would not recommend authorizing anyone to do any maintenance or cleaning on the stones. Mr. Carroll isn't opposed to Mr. Klane using those tools, with possible oversight from Ms. Hopkins. Mr. Davidson is more concerned about his use of "counter-pressure". He would recommend not allowing him to touch the stone. Maybe he could make a list of the unreadable ones and they could be added to a list for restoration next year. Mr. Soucy thinks it is a worthwhile project but understands Ms. Hopkins reservations. Mr. Riedel doesn't want to put the responsibility of protecting the stones on Ms. Hopkins.

Brian Davidson made a motion to grant photography request, however party is not allowed to touch the stones in any manner during the photography process. Rod Riedel seconded the motion and it was voted as follows to approve:

Rod Riedel – Aye
Leo Carroll - Aye
Jerry Soucy – Aye
Brian Davidson – Aye

Mr. Gailus, 62 Prescott Road, commented that he supported the vote that was just taken.

D-5: COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Mr. Soucy advised he and Mr. Davidson will work with Ms. St. John to schedule and post a Columbarium subcommittee meeting in the future.

Mr. Riedel is continuing to survey/catalog vegetation in Sleepy Hollow. He has worked with Mr. Carroll to look at the topology of Sleepy Hollow and has divided it into five sections that he hopes to use to develop a plan with Mr. Miklosko and Ms. Hopkins, regarding the vegetation issue. Mr. Carroll also mentioned that Ms. Hopkins is also looking into alternative ground cover that could remedy some of the crab grass.

D-6: PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Mark Gailus, 62 Prescott Road, wanted to apologize for any confusion regarding a letter that was sent to some committee members. His purpose was to make sure the committee was aware of some activity regarding interests outside of Concord raising the question of whether the Reformatory Branch Trail should be part of a feasibility study to determine if it should be paved, similar to what is being considered in Bedford. He just wants to make sure the Committee is aware that these conversations are happening.

Mr. Ned Perry, 362 Bedford Street, wanted to commend Ms. Hopkins on her knowledge of groundcover, and also Mr. Riedel and the rest of the Committee with their work on the Old Hill Burying Ground, especially with the 2025 Celebration coming up. It is prominent during parades and celebrations. Mr. Riedel wanted to clarify that at this time he hadn't included Old Hill and South Burying Grounds into the plans they've been focusing on, but because of these comments, he will look to expand the assessment. Mr. Carroll suggested people ask around to see what can be done with the crabgrass.

D-7: SUMMARY OF FOLLOW UP ITEMS

Mr. Carroll would like to see some of the work the headstone restoration contractor is doing and asked if Ms. Hopkins can let him know when some of the work will be done.

Scanning of records is continuing, hoping to be completed in the fall. Signage has been ordered and should be in shortly. Melvin Memorial quote has come back, so that should begin shortly. Continue to monitor the seeding project and see if there is anything else that can be done.

ADJOURNMENT:

Rod Riedel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 17:05 P.M. Mr. Davidson seconded. (4-0)

Rod Riedel – Aye
Leo Carroll - Aye
Jerry Soucy – Aye
Brian Davidson – Aye

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved,

Justine St. John
Administrative Assistant, Highway & Grounds Division

Leo Carroll, Chairperson
Cemetery Committee