

**Town of Concord  
Cemetery Committee Meeting  
November 3, 2021  
Via Zoom**

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

Also Present: Mr. Aaron Miklosko – Highway and Grounds Superintendent  
Ms. Patricia Hopkins – Cemetery Supervisor  
Ms. Justine St. John – Administrative Assistant for Highway & Grounds  
Ms. Linda Escobedo - Select Board Liaison  
Mr. Kevin Plodzik – Resident  
Ms. Susan Dee –Resident  
Ms. Nancy Reilly – Resident

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- A-1** The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm
- A-2** It was announced that the meeting was being audio/video recorded.
- A-3** Six deeds submitted for signing.
- A-4** Next Meeting will be December 1, 2021 at 4:00PM
- A-6** Meeting Minutes from October 6, 2021 were approved.

Brian Davidson moved to approve the October 6, 2021 minutes as edited, Rebecca Purcell seconded and it was voted as follows to approve:

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

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

**D-1: STAFF REPORT:**

Mr. Miklosko advised there were (12) lots sold, (1) full interment and (18) cremation interments in October. He also reminded the Committee members that the Town is hosting an Effective Governance Workshop on Saturday November 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:30. He reported that Ms. Hopkins, Cemetery Supervisor, sent out a News and Notices that the cleanup for Veteran’s Day was starting. He reminded the Committee that people can sign up to receive Cemetery news on the website.

Einsteins has also started their fall cleanup. Daedalus completed cleaning and repair work on the Melvin Memorial. Signs for the trails off the Reformatory Branch Trail have been received and will be installed later this week. The Town has renewed the contract for a second year with Einsteins for landscaping services in the Cemetery. Headstone restoration repairs have been delayed due to weather and scheduling on the vendor's part. Ms. Hopkins reminded the Committee that there will be a Veteran's Day Ceremony at 7:45am on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Miklosko advised he is working with Engineering along with third party contractors to have a stone wall assessment completed and the survey work for the proposed columbarium area completed. Ms. Hopkins is also working with Engineering to work through any remaining mapping issues so the records scanning project can be completed.

Mr. Carroll asked whether this would affect the patching of the walls near the Melvin Memorial. Mr. Miklosko believes that will be included in the full assessment. Mr. Miklosko clarified that operations will be able to replace and reset some of the stones Mr. Carroll was referring to.

Mr. Riedel asked if the stone wall assessment would include an estimate for repairs. Mr. Miklosko advised it would. Mr. Riedel also wanted to clarify the location of the columbarium that was referenced-it is in the Knoll.

Mr. Riedel asked if he could see a list of the gravestones that are scheduled to be repaired in FY22.

Mr. Riedel asked if Concord Cub and Girl Scouts participate in the Veteran's Day Ceremony-Ms. Hopkins replied that typically yes, and it is typically handled through Public Ceremonies. He also wondered if Concord youth organizations could participate in putting flags on the graves of veterans in May. Ms. Hopkins advised that it has recently been organized by the Maynard Elks, which is why there were Maynard youth helping out.

Mr. Carroll inquired if the Committee would get the same type of report for headstone restorations this year. Mr. Miklosko advised the Division would provide their own internal report in addition to any deliverable the vendor may provide.

## **D-2: DISCUSSION-REQUEST FROM FRIENDS OF SLEEPY HOLLOW FOR EVENT ON OCTOBER 2, 2022:**

Mr. Plodzick, 98 Baker Ave, representing the Friends of Sleepy Hollow Committee, presented their vision for an event to be held on October 2, 2022. They are expecting to hold the event from 1:30-4:00pm and are expecting to run it similar to the way the Cemetery Division ran the re-dedication of the Melvin Memorial. They plan to ask Holy Family Parish if they can have vehicles park in their lot and will arrange a minibus for attendees who may need transportation. They plan on hiring a police officer to assist with pedestrians crossing Bedford Street. They will be alert to any funerals taking place and will coordinate with Ms. Hopkins to ensure they won't be disruptive. They want to educate people on the etiquette of the Cemetery, and will only be utilizing roadways and paths, not grave sites or grassy areas in the Cemetery. They anticipate two focal points being the Melvin Memorial and the Handley Memorial Garden and are planning guided tours, a reception and light snacks. Nancy Reilly and Priscilla Sturges spoke to and shared an example of the proposed bingo game.

Mr. Soucy asked about what the event would look like. Mr. Plodzick said they will invite some visitors by special invitation, along with press releases and social media. He does admit it is

difficult to predict how many people will attend, as it will be open to the Town. Mr. Soucy was trying to get a feel for how many people they could expect. Ms. Sturges estimated that it would probably be under 100 people, based on previous events.

Mr. Riedel asked about the approximate attendance at the Melvin Memorial rededication ceremony to try to get a sense of what 100-200 people gathered would look like. Mr. Soucy estimated about 150-300 people attended that. Mr. Plodzick estimated about 75 -80 people attended the Handley Garden Dedication.

Mr. Carroll asked about next steps. Mr. Miklosko advised The Friends had submitted a Use of Town Property Permit to the Town Manager's Office. From there it will be reviewed to determine what kind of support will be needed, from Public Works, or Police Department for example. The Deputy Town Manager reviews these requests and the input and then approves or follows up with the group.

Rod Riedel made a motion to support the event to be held by the Friends of Sleepy Hollow on October 2, 2022. Mr. Soucy seconded. (5-0)

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

Mr. Plodzick asked if it was now okay for him to include this date in the mailing. Mr. Miklosko advised he would follow up with him offline.

### **D-3: COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS:**

Mr. Soucy spoke about a newsletter he received from the Funeral Consumer Alliance of Eastern Massachusetts. There is a bill in committee pertaining to two additional death care options-natural organic reduction (composting) and alkaline hydrolysis (water cremation). He was also interested in a survey that was done this past summer about ease of access for consumer information. Massachusetts scored an "F". Mr. Carroll asked for clarification about the "F". Mr. Soucy explained that it is difficult for consumers in Massachusetts to easily access information as consumers in making decisions about funeral services.

Mr. Davidson wanted to follow up on the filming for "World's Greatest Cemeteries". Ms. Hopkins advised they did film and had a successful day. She also put the filmmaker in touch with a family he wanted more information about. He expects it to be featured sometime next year.

Mr. Riedel advised he went on a Concord Garden Club sponsored tour of Sleepy Hollow and asked if they had applied for a permit from Ms. Hopkins. She said no, but she typically doesn't issue permits for something like that. She would like tours to call ahead, in the event there is a funeral. He was also wondering if the map that is at the Prichard Gate could be put on the website so people could print it out if they wanted to. He asked if there was a central record that he could use regarding monies that have been requested for capital projects for the Cemetery over the past 10 years. Mr. Riedel also spoke about targeting sites for vegetative maintenance and erosion control. He met with a Concord resident who gave some suggestions as to native plants that might succeed in areas with steep grades. Mr. Miklosko suggested if there are going to be two or more members of the committee discussing official business, it might be best to form a subcommittee.

**D-4: PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Ms. Escobedo reminded people about the Effective Governance training as well. She believes it will be useful. She also acknowledged that she had received the letter from the Committee about bicycles. She said she had reached out to both Mr. Carroll and Mr. Davidson and suggested it might be helpful to point out some of the content of the letter during one of the monthly Chair's meeting, so more committees can hear the content.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Brian Davidson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 17:16 P.M. Mr. Riedel seconded. (5-0)

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