



TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

BOARD/COMMITTEE: CEMETERY COMMISSION

MEETING DATE: Thursday, February 9, 2023

TIME: 10:08 EST

PLACE: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING, 873 Mass Avenue, Boxborough, MA 01719

MEMBERS PRESENT: Owen Neville, Jim Moss, Bill Sutcliffe

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Summary of discussion of each topic

1. **Review and Approval of January 2023 Meeting minutes** – Motion made by Jim that January minutes be accepted as with no corrections. Motion was seconded by Bill: Motion passed unanimously.
2. **Communications/Public Participation** – None
3. **Vegetation or Grounds Issues:**
 - a. Chalupa Grave: backfill is settling deeper (almost 12" especially near head stone). Jim suggested that backfilling of graves may be being done too quickly (tamping down by hand and using the weight of the backhoe bucket would be a way to better compact the soil). Also, bringing the back fill up to grade would allow for a settlement of 4-6 inches. As the backfill is so low for this grave, it could be considered a public safety issue. Owen suggested putting out cones and possibly tape until DPW raises the backfill level. The level of the backfill is also an issue on several other graves.
 - b. The Commission decided that all decorations (including Christmas Decorations) on the graves will be removed by the end of February by the DPW weather permitting. All the decorations stored in the storage shed (with the exception of the tall statues) are to be disposed.
 - c. In addition, there is trash along the wall on the Burroughs Rd. side and under some rhododendrons that needs to be cleaned up.
 - d. Vines and other vegetation along the walls bordering Stow Rd. and Burroughs Rd. need to be removed permanently.
 - e. The back area of South Cemetery needs to be cleaned up (plant debris, flower pots, leaves, etc). There is a stone wall that needs to be exposed to the left of the storage shed. Also, there are several trees that are dead and need to be removed as well as the vines that killed them.
 - f. A flat gravemarker in the new section appeared to have been put in the wrong location and appeared to be in the roadway. Owen will check this out. Placement should have been approved by the Superintendent and one of the Commission Members (none were consulted)
 - g. Jim suggested that before the headstones become unreadable, that the Historical Commission be asked to document photographically (and in writing) each headstone and its location so that information will be available in the future.
 - h. Two of the monuments are 6' high, one monument is 6' 6" high, a few others are 5' 6" , and another few are 5' high
 - i. Many of the older headstones are 2' wide with a depth varying from 3.5" to 1.25"

j. A question was raised about sealing the top of the slate or bluestone headstones: Jim would look into this using AIC resources. Owen asked Paul about it already and is awaiting an answer..

4. **Veterans Flags:** Bill suggested that someone he knows is eager to help put out the flags in the Spring.
5. **Rules and Regulations:** Further discussion was postponed until the March meeting.
6. **Next Meeting Date: March 9, 2023**
7. **Meeting was adjourned at 12:05** Motion passed unanimously.