



## TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

**BOARD/COMMITTEE:** CEMETERY COMMISSION

**MEETING DATE:** THURSDAY, August 18, 2022

**TIME:** 10:15 AM

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bill Sutcliffe, Jim Moss, Owen Neville

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Ed Kukkula, DPW Director/Cemetery Superintendent

### Summary of discussion of each topic

- 1. Review and Approve July Meeting minutes** – Discussion: Jim wants his discussion about the Commission’s responsibility regarding Preservation and Restoration of the monuments and grounds (specifically related to the removal of the large tree in North Cemetery) to be included in the July minutes. Motion made by Bill that July minutes be accepted as amended. Motion was seconded by Jim. Motion passed unanimously.
- 2. Removal of Ancient Tree at North Cemetery** – Discussion: The Commission received a 3<sup>rd</sup> bid from Tree Masters for the removal of the ancient dead tree that was considerably less than the last bid of \$6000. (Thank you, Bill for your intervention.) Contractor has contacted the abutting neighbor, Mr. Palmer, and received permission to bring Tree Master’s mini-excavator around the barn via the lawn area so that pressure can be applied to the dead tree using the excavator. The DPW has agreed to repair any disruption to Mr. Palmer’s new lawn area. Two younger trees near the stone wall will be dropped onto the Palmer property and Mr. Palmer will cut and split them. The red cedar in front of the dead ash tree will be cut down and left where it falls, as will the dead ash tree. Tree Masters has insurance to cover any property damage caused by this operation. Funding (\$2,300) will come from the Perpetual Care Trust Fund. A motion was made by Bill to allow Tree Masters to execute their bid. Motion passed unanimously with 2 yeas (Neville and Sutcliffe) and one yea with reservations (Moss).
- 3. CPA Application** - All agreed that an application will be made to the CPA for a tentative amount of \$9,500.
- 4. Vault Repair** - It was agreed to invite Paul Chouinard of Cali Corp to bid on the repair of the other vaults in North Cemetery. Mr. Chouinard has been restoring many of the

monuments in North and South Cemeteries as well as one of the other vaults at North Cemetery.

**5. Rules and Regulations-**

- a. #9, page 2 of the current regulations** - All work orders to be done by people not employed by the town of Boxborough. Owen wanted to check with Ed to determine if this was being carried out. Ed answered in the affirmative.
  - b. #22, page 3 of the current regulations** - A discussion took place regarding letting dogs into the cemeteries. The consensus was there was no practical way to prevent dogs from using the cemeteries. If one of the Commissioners witnesses an owner not picking up after their dog, a polite discussion will be had with the owner for education purposes.
- 6. South Cemetery Repairs** - Owen requested that Ed fill in a hole at South Cemetery. The hole is a bottomless pit once occupied by a dead tree. It could be a hazard to those using the cemetery.
- 7. Operating Budget** - A general discussion was held about increasing our operating budget; no conclusions were reached.
- 8. Future Topics:** Signage