

Waterford Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

Davies Library

In Attendance: Dave Morrison, Deb Benoit, Jen D'Agostino, Mark Harpin

Jen D'Agostino called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Modifications to Agenda

- Add Citizens' Concerns
- Add Funeral Home Letter (Discussion/Action)

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Deb Benoit made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as amended of the January 10, 2024 meeting. Mark Harpin seconded the motion. Motion passed by acclamation of members present.

Citizens' Concerns

- Dave Morrison voiced his concern over the possibility of citizens no longer being allowed to bury cremains. He believes citizens should retain the ability to dig and bury cremains on their own. He also voiced concerns over the discussions of a few policies during the Cemetery Committee meeting on 01/10/24. Jen D'Agostino explained that she did not bring up those policies with any intention of doing away with them; she brought attention to those policies to make time to take a closer look at them to ensure they are written clearly so they can achieve the desired impact. Deb Benoit reiterated that the Cemetery Committee cannot make or change policies, they can only make recommendations to the Selectboard.

Policy Review (Discussion/Action)

- Deb Benoit motioned to dedicate a working meeting to review policies. Jen D'Agostino seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

No Activity/Contact Lots (Discussion/Action)

- Tabled until future meeting.

Update on Investing (Discussion)

- The Cemetery Perpetual Trust Fund has \$14,400 with \$12,500 that can never be spent. Deb Benoit did some research to see if it could be invested and she confirmed it has to

stay in that account and cannot be moved to a CD. She will continue to work Town Treasurer Heather Gonyaw to further investigate potential investing opportunities.

Report on Surveying Request to Selectboard (Discussion)

- Mark Harpin gave a brief summary of the report he gave at the previous Selectboard meeting. They want the Cemetery Committee to find pricing from a few surveyors. Bids are needed to be put in the 2025 budget. Mike will reach out to Andy Dussault for a ballpark price, and Jen D'Agostino will reach out to Nate Nadeau.
- The town owns the property of Riverside Cemetery, but it is unclear if it owns the property of any other cemeteries. Deb Benoit offered to find out if the town owns Stiles Cemetery or just maintains it and report her findings in a future meeting.

Burial Fees and Letter from Funeral Home (Discussion)

- Local funeral homes sent letters to cemeteries reminding them that funeral homes no longer take care of hiring people to do site work and asked for information from the cemeteries on how they will accommodate the policy change.
- Mark Harpin discussed the letter and shared the pricing models of a few funeral homes. Jen D'Agostino suggested having a flat rate regardless of weekday/weekend or holiday. The price of burial services are in addition to the price of purchasing the lot from the town. Mark says this is still new and it's unclear how other towns are responding. Jen suggested asking around other towns to see how they're handling this change in policy. Mike is now the point of contact for the Cemetery Committee. He will ask around and look for more pricing from other places and will report back in a future meeting.

Agenda Items for Working Meeting 03/20/2024

- Policy Review

Adjourn

- Deb Benoit made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Harpin seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.