

APPROVED –

Peacham Cemetery Preservation Committee Emergency Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2020

Present via phone or video

Committee Members: Annette Lorraine, Bob Morgan, Karen Lewis, Becky Jensen

Public: Ron Craig

Annette Lorraine called the meeting to order at 4:09pm EDT. Becky will take minutes.

Additions to the agenda: No additions to the agenda.

Minutes:

Bob moved to approve the April 22, 2020 emergency meeting minutes. Karen seconded.

Approved with all in favor.

Karen moved to approve the April 19, 2020 tour minutes. Bob seconded. Approved with all in favor.

Cemetery job descriptions discussion:

Becky distributed, prior to the meeting “Proposed “Peacham Cemetery Personnel Jobs, Regulations and Duties”.

Following discussion and a few changes, Bob moved to accept the “Peacham Cemetery Personnel Jobs, Regulations and Duties” with the changes. Karen seconded. Approved with all in favor. The document will be included with these minutes.

Becky will submit to the Selectboard for approval.

Feedback from Ron Craig on future work needs:

Becky moved to go into executive session to discuss personnel at 4:46pm. Executive session ended at 5:12pm. No Action taken

Discussion of current needs and how to plan for the future ensued. Some immediate needs include placing of corner markers, clearing of any remaining debris, edging, basic pruning, and identification of stones needing repair. Ron would like to conduct a lot by lot survey of the cemetery to identify work needed. This would help the Sexton develop a plan for maintenance.

Records returned by Cheryl:

Karen has not been able to look at the records (approximately three file drawers full) yet. The Town Clerk, Tom Galinat has been going through the records and identifying those records that may need to be added to the town’s records. Karen will go through the records once it is safe for her to do so.

Annette would like contact information for any outside contractors to be compiled.

Ron mentioned work on a pine tree that had been contracted out. He is unclear as to what was contracted for and whether the work was completed. Karen will follow up.

Green Burial:

Bob presented discussion points for Green or Natural Burials. All agreed that Natural Burial would be the preferred term to use and that we should proceed with determining how best to implement such burials in our cemetery.

Important points to consider:

- Traditional restrictions in “natural” burial sites
 - No embalming
 - No vaults
 - Coffin materials permitted
 - Shroud materials permitted
- Aesthetics arising from “natural burial” general philosophy
 - What does “natural” connote?
- Mowing?
 - Paths?
 - Trees?
 - Meadow?
 - Wildflowers
 - How “wild” is too wild?
- Burial placement in cemetery
 - Future expansion of traditional burial sites
 - “Natural” plot placement in cemetery if segregated from traditional burial plots
 - Integration of “natural” plots and traditional plots
 - Size of plots
 - Density of plots/acre
 - Depth of burial
- Plot markers
 - Metal spikes below ground and invisible
 - Traditional stone markers
- Headstones
 - Family choice, mixed media?
 - Cemetery mandated: material, size, text content, font, etc.?
 - Headstones set at ground level or above?
 - None permitted?
 - Stele with names, dates?
- Decoration of graves
 - None permitted, i.e., no flowers, garden gnomes, etc.?
 - What, if permitted?
- Family participation
 - Allowed to bury decedent or not

Each member of the committee will write up and submit to Bob what is important to them so that we can narrow down the areas to concentrate on.

Discussion on whether current lots could allow natural burials raised additional questions about the requirements for vaults. Additional questions about how to assign lots – multiple family owned lots together vs. first come, first served burial order in the area.

Ron raised related topic – can lots be given / sold by the current owner.

Sexton Job:

Annette moved to go into executive session to discuss personnel at 6:16pm. Executive session ended at 6:26pm. No action taken.

Next meeting: June 9, 4:00pm EDT. Preferably on a system other than GoToMeeting.

NB: Meeting had to be rescheduled due to not warning meeting in a timely fashion.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Jensen