

Cemetery Trustee Meeting

June 13, 2023

In Attendance:

Jessica Kliskey, Lucy Cushman, Melanie McGrail, Nate Mears, Jenn Schaaff, Deborah Bakie, David Moore

There was a recap of the Cemetery Trustee meeting held on June 8th.

David Moore outlined what a non-public session entails, and The Right to Know Law, our meetings must be posted 24 hours in advance. He is also going to show town counsel the current deed form of cemetery plots for review.

Nate Mears explained his role as Sexton, and it was voted on, and agreed, that he remain in this role. He also outlined DPW (Dept of Public Works) responsibilities in regards to internments in the town's 3 cemeteries, of which only 1, Maple Lane has lots available.

The committee agreed we need to identify items that need to be accomplished, such as amending the "Regulations Governing Public Cemeteries in the Town of Stratham" as it is 9 years old.

Nate, his assistant Jenn Schaaff, and Deb Bakie will work on syncing their 2 recording of graves system. The data includes names, actual site, date of burials, and fees. It was also noted that the lots are not 'sold' but it's the 'right to intern' that is being purchased. This will be reflected in the above amending of the regulations.

There was a vote to change the fee of opening of full burial from \$750 to \$900, as the cost has increased over the years. The DPW works with Skip Hayes for the excavation, and burial. The funeral home coordinates burials. All agreed to the increase, which will now be presented to the Selectboard.

There was a lengthy conversation about DPW locating bounds, and laying out of the plots. It is a lengthy process, and currently there is no "Finder's Fee" for the time spent on this task. A \$100/Finders Fee was discussed, and Nate will research to set the goal of consistency within industry regulations. There is also no longer 'perpetual care' in future internments. This care will be continued in Greenwood and Harmony Hill cemeteries, as those lots were purchased under that condition. The verbiage will now read "care and maintenance."

Nate will compile a baseline data to get a closer cost estimate of this care & maintenance, to present at our next meeting.

The DPW is currently setting corner markers for lots, using metal pins so sites are easier to locate.

There was a motion made by Lucy Cushman, seconded by Jessica Kliskey, to give authority to Nate Mears to petition the Secretary of State of NH to make a needed correction in Maple Lane. The vote was taken, and approved.

Lucy will research internment for non-residents who are parishioners of Stratham Community Church.

Our next meeting will be held on August 10th from 8:30AM – 10AM in the Hutton Room at the Stratham Town Hall.
An initial conversation of Green Burials will be discussed.

Submitted by: Melanie McGrail