

Meeting of the Kensington Cemetery Trustees

Minutes

Thursday March 14, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Kensington Town Hall

The Kensington Cemetery Trustees met at the Kensington Town Hall at 6:30 PM on Thursday, March 14, 2024. The meeting was open to the public.

Members present:

Jacquelyn Benson
Katelynn Dow
Nancy Roffman

Members absent:

None

Members of the public:

Richard Fyler, 146 South Road

Meeting called to order at 6:46 PM.

Old business:

1. Approve past minutes
2. Cemetery maintenance
 - a. Stones
 - i. Set a cleaning date and put in KCC news?
 1. Stone cleaning will be May 26th from 10-12. We will post this in the KCC.
 - b. Mowing
 - i. nothing new to report
 - c. Tree service
 - i. nothing new to report
 - d. Roads
 - i. nothing new to report
3. Cemetery records
 - a. New burials update
 - i. Judith and Leonard Hodgkinson
 - b. Cemetery mapping project
 - i. nothing new to report
4. Cemetery bylaws

- a. Green burials amendment
 - i. Draft text:

The {TBD: to be determined} area of the Dearborn Annex cemetery is designated for green burials. For the purposes of these bylaws, “green burials” are defined as burials made without a vault and interred in a non-permanent, biodegradable container or casket. Embalming is not required. Residents wishing to be buried only in a shroud or blanket must have the assistance of a cemetery-approved funeral home that has stated its willingness to facilitate a shroud-only burial. As with regular Kensington cemetery burials, only Kensington residents may request a plot in this section of the yard.
 - ii. Graves in this section must be dug deep enough for a minimum of three feet of earth to rest above the burial. An additional cost may apply to opening green burial graves, to be negotiated with a cemetery-approved grave opener. This surcharge is applied to the work and materials for filling in the burial site in the case of future subsidence.
 - iii. Plots in this area of the cemetery will be 4’ wide for a single lot or 8’ wide for a double lot.
 - iv. Burials in this section of the cemetery must have a permanent marker with the name of those interred. Both flat and standing headstones are permitted.
 - v. This section of the cemetery will be mowed and maintained in a similar manner to the rest of the yard.
 - vi. Those wishing to arrange a green burial should note that the cemetery is closed for burials when the ground is frozen. The Town of Kensington does not have storage facilities for unembalmed bodies, and other storage arrangements should be made in case death occurs during the winter months.
 - vii. As with all whole interments, a state burial permit must be filed with the town clerk before the burial can go forward. Potential green burials should note that in the case of a possible death by a contagious or potentially hazardous virus or disease, the New Hampshire Department of Health’s Center for Disease Control and/or the New Hampshire Chief Medical Examiner’s Office will review the case and may forbid natural burial if there is concern about possible infection or spread of disease.
 - b. The trustees set a date of April 18th to open the floor for public comment on this draft. Jackie will post the draft in the town hall, on the cemetery trustees, and share it with the town Facebook group. Jackie will provide notice of the meeting in the next edition of the Kensington Community News.
5. Cemetery communications
- a. Town newsletter
 - i. Jackie will be sending the updates about the stone cleaning and green burials open session into the KCC news.
 - b. Town website
 - i. Jackie will update the website of the draft text for the green burials and information on the open session.
6. Cemetery budget

- a. 2025 warrant article

New business:

- 7. Any other business
 - a. Someone attend March 21 heritage meeting?
 - i. Nancy will attend the heritage meeting as Jackie and Katelynn are unavailable with another event.
- 8. Determine next meeting date
 - a. April 18, 2024 at 6:30 PM
- 9. Adjournment: 7:30 PM