

Meeting of the Kensington Cemetery Trustees

Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes

Draft minutes to be voted on during next meeting of the Kensington Cemetery Trustees.

The meeting was held virtually using the Town's Zoom platform. The meeting was posted on the Town's website so the public was able to attend. Kathy Felch, Selectman's Assistant opened the meeting and passed hosting responsibilities to Jackie Benson. Jackie hosted the meeting with her email and phone so that anyone who called in or wished to join could have done so easily. Jackie read the Checklist to Ensure Meetings are Compliant with the Right-to-Know Law During the State of Emergency.

In Attendance

Present:

Cemetery Trustees: Jackie Benson, Nancy Roffman

Absent:

Norman Deboisbriand

Call to order at 6:33 PM.

Minutes

No minutes were reviewed.

Old Business

2021 Budget

- Nothing to report.

Cemetery maintenance:

- Mowing and landscaping:

Jackie reported that Harold Bragg of Down to Earth landscaping is willing to do an end of June mowing and an end of July mowing of both yards for \$500 per mow/\$1000 total.

Motion: Jackie moved that the trustees forward that offer to the selectboard with our endorsement. Nancy seconded. A roll call vote was held.

Jackie: Aye

Nancy: Aye

Jackie said Harold has identified a couple of invasive species present in the Lower Yard, such as bittersweet and Japanese knotwood. He said Down to Earth can remove them/treat for an additional \$500.

Motion: Jackie moved the trustees also forward this offer to the selectboard with their Nancy seconded. A roll call vote was held.

Jackie: Aye

Nancy: Aye

Nancy had her car torn up by a stone in the grass drive just past the cemetery gate (approx. eight feet on the right). She recommends we look into finding someone who could give us a quote for removing that stone. (It is just a natural rock – not a monument.) Jackie volunteered to ask around. Jackie will also ask Harold Bragg if Down to Earth could trim the grass around the fence during their late June mowing to facilitate the painting, and what the additional cost would be for that.

Jackie also suggested the trustees look at simplifying the cemetery mowing contract for 2022 and perhaps building in some flexibility around terms based on grass height/rainfall. Mowing likely needs to be done twice monthly in April and May and once monthly in June through October, with cleanups in March and November.

- Fence painting:
Nancy reported that Courtney Bacheldor asked about the fence painting job. The selectboard approved hiring Courtney as an employee for the work at \$20 per hour. Nancy has received instructions on how to do the painting from Art Wiggin which she will pass on to Courtney. The issue of how paint and supplies are purchased was raised. Both paint and sandpaper are needed. Jackie volunteered to ask Kathy about that.
- Gate repair:
Nancy is waiting for a call back from Billy Burke, whom Art Wiggin recommended for the job.
- Stone repair:
Gravestone Services of New England has accepted the job to repair stones in the Lower Yard, for up to \$5700. They will begin work in approximately six weeks. The trustees are planning to submit a warrant article for 2022 for the Upper Yard stone repair work, which is more extensive.
- Tree service:
The Universalist Church committee are not going to be doing the removal of the tree with branches leaning over the Upper Yard. Current projections have the cemetery coming in well under budget for mowing this year. Jackie proposed the trustees get a couple estimates for removing the tree or the endangering branches and then ask the selectboard if we can reallocate some of our mowing funds to do the tree work this year. Jackie will get the estimates and present them to the trustees.

Cemetery Records:

- Nancy reported a burial will take place in July. She examined the grave site and determined there is plenty of room in the family plot for the burial. It will be a cremated remains interment.
- Jackie will ask Sarah and Kathy to loop her in on any burial permits which are submitted to the town so she can add them to the cemetery records spreadsheet.

Cemetery Bylaws:

- No action on this, waiting for Norm.

Cemetery Communications:

- Jackie wrote a piece for the KCC newsletter and will do so again for the next issue.

Wreaths Across America

- No action on this, waiting for Norm.

New Business

Trash removal:

- Nancy noted the wooden trash bin at the back of the cemetery is full again. Jackie recalled that last time, Norm emptied that as a volunteer. Jackie and Nancy agreed that relying on volunteers isn't a good long-term solution. Jackie will contact Kathy to put this issue to the selectboard and get their recommendations.

The next meeting of the trustees was set for August 12 at 6:30PM. The trustees decided to hold regular meetings bimonthly on the second Thursday of the month moving forward, with additional meetings to be scheduled as needed.

Jackie called for the meeting to adjourn at 7:12 PM. Nancy seconded. A roll call vote was held:

- Jackie: Aye
- Nancy: Aye