

Meeting of the Kensington Cemetery Trustees

Thursday January 18, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Kensington Town Hall

The Kensington Cemetery Trustees will be meeting at the Kensington Town Hall at 6:30 PM on Thursday, January 18, 2024. Any member of the public wishing to participate in this meeting may do so.

Attending:

Nancy Roffman
Katelynn Dow
Jacquelyn Benson

Absent:

None

Members of the public:

Richard Fyler, 146 South Road

Miguel Brewitt

Denise Brewitt

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM.

Agenda

Old business:

1. Approve past minutes:
Jackie moved to approve the minutes from the November 16th meeting. Katelynn seconded. All in favor.
2. Cemetery maintenance
 - a. Stones
 - i. Nothing new to report
 - b. Mowing
 - i. Nothing new to report
 - c. Tree service
 - i. Nothing new to report
 - d. Roads
 - i. Gate closed the beginning of January/cemetery closed at the present time
3. Cemetery records
 - a. New burials update
 - i. Michelle Hall
 - ii. Bernice Brewer

- b. Cemetery mapping project
 - i. Nothing new to report
 - 4. Cemetery bylaws
 - 5. Cemetery communications
 - a. Town newsletter
 - b. Town website
 - c. Annual report letter
 - i. Jackie will finish our draft of the letter and send out for the annual report
 - 6. Cemetery budget
 - a. 2025 warrant article
 - i. To see if the town will vote to establish a Cemetery Reserve Expendable Trust Fund pursuant to RSA 31:19-a and RSA 289:2-a, allowing unused funds raised by the Town of Kensington for the purposes of cemetery maintenance and any interest gained thereon, to be used for the maintenance of cemeteries; and, further to name the Cemetery Trustees as agents to expend from this fund.
 - ii. Voted to move this forward to the Trustees of the Trust Funds. All in favor.
 - 7. Green burials
 - a. Plainfield - approved via warrant article to get town OK, "approve of the trustees efforts"
 - b. Jackie checked in on the state law side of things: no state law regulations required, only embalming if the viewing was longer than 24 hours.
 - c. Katelynn reached out to the town clerk/Stratham trustees regarding their backgrounds with green burials. They have yet to reach back out. It was mentioned in their minutes in July to start the discussion of green burials, but minutes are not listed.
 - d. Miguel discussed the Stratham vaulting system and how they have made some changes to allow for green burials. The vault helps to maintain the integrity of the earth below. Also the vaulting helps to aid in the proper spacing for each burial. Mentioned the Calgary cemetery in Newmarket that has a separate section of the cemetery specific for green burials.
 - e. If we are going to be listing green burials in the by-laws we would need to be incredibly specific in vaulting requirements, embalming, sizing, etc... Moving forward, Skip would be the next person to be in touch with for his thoughts regarding the green burials. Still continue to reach out to other towns regarding their work through the by-laws of vaults and requirements as well as any possible issues/problems they may have had with working through the addition of the green burials to the by-laws.
 - i. We would need to draft an amendment to the by-laws then bring it to the select board. In other towns a warrant article has been added to ask the question, or perhaps another open forum where people could come to express their thoughts regarding green burials and the impact for us in Kensington.
 - ii. Green Burial Work Session: February 22, 2024 6:30 PM

New business:

- 8. Any other business
- 9. Determine next meeting date

- a. Green Burial Work Session: February 22, 2024 6:30 PM
 - b. March 21, 2024 6:30 PM
- 10. Adjournment : 7:30 PM