

# Meeting of the Kensington Cemetery Trustees

Thursday, December 18, 2020 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, Norm DeBoisbriand, Nancy Roffman

#### *Absent:*

None.

Call to order at 6:38 PM.

### Minutes

The trustees reviewed whether there were any prior meeting minutes to accept. The prior meeting's minutes were not available on the town website so they will be reviewed at the next meeting.

### Old Business

#### 2020 Budget

- Jackie got an estimate from Kai at Gravesite Services of New England for needed work on broken, fallen or leaning stones in the Lower and Upper Yards. This amounted to \$17,000 – it has been some time since any work was done. The trustees had previously moved to ask the selectboard to encumber \$1,270 in 2020 funds designated for fence repair for purposes of gravestone repair. Jackie noted that Kathy Felch reports there is roughly \$5,000 unspent in the cemetery landscaping budget from this year, and suggested these funds could also potentially be used for stone repair in 2021.
  - Motion: Jackie moved that the trustees ask the selectboard to encumber all unspent 2020 cemetery funds – landscaping and fence – to begin to undertake some of the needed work listed in the estimate provided by Gravesite Services of New England. Norm seconded. A roll call vote was held.
    - Jackie: Aye
    - Norm: Aye

- Nancy: Aye
- The trustees also discussed whether any funds from the two perpetual care trusts might be used for repair of the stones. Jackie said she would get a firm list of the stones in need of repair which could then be compared to the donors to the perpetual care trusts. The trustees will ask that the Trustees of the Trust Funds approve use of perpetual care monies for any stones in need of repair which did contribute to the trust.
- The trustees discussed whether the fund for Perpetual Care and Good of the Cemetery might also be used for repair of stones on plots that did not contribute to the perpetual care trusts. Jackie shared the letter from the Department of Justice earlier this fall which indicated that money could not be used for general cemetery repairs/upkeep unless documentation can be found to that effect. No documentation has been located. Norm suggested that the trustees should consider modifying the documents around perpetual care donations to make clear that funds donated may be used for the person's own stone but potentially also for other needed stone/grave repairs. The trustees are considering approaching the selectboard to get town council to give an opinion on the matter. In the meantime, Norm volunteered to do some research to see what other towns in the area might be doing in relation to this issue.

#### Cemetery Records:

- Norm investigated the CD he found in his cemetery binder and discovered it does contain the electronic file for the cemetery records spreadsheet. There was much rejoicing! He will make copies and Jackie will upload the file to cloud storage once she creates the Kensington Cemetery Trustees Google account discussed at the Dec 10 meeting.

#### Flags:

- Norm spoke with Fred Bloomberg and learned that there was indeed controversy over precipitous removal of the flags from veteran's graves. Norm volunteered to explore the issue further with other interested parties such as the fire department and the Legion with an eye to suggesting an agreeable date at which flags can routinely be removed.

### **New Business**

#### Open Trustee Seats

- Jackie brought up Sarah Wiggins question about whether there will be any other open cemetery trustee seats this March besides the one Jackie is currently holding (which was previously held by Fred Bloomberg). Norm and Nancy confirmed that they do intend to serve out their full terms. Jackie will let Sarah know there is therefore only one open seat in this upcoming election.

#### Cole Plot 114 (Lower Yard)

- Jackie shared that Marian Lord has asked for a letter or deed showing her parents have space for burial in the Cole family plot (#114 lower yard). Jackie noted there are currently three burials in that plot but it is not known if they are whole internments or cremation interments. Because

of the snow it is impossible to go investigate the plot itself and determine size. It was noted that because George Cole is still living with his daughter on Stumpfield Road, he would qualify for a new plot in the cemetery by virtue of being a Kensington resident. This plot would be for a couple, leaving room for both him and Nancy. The trustees will investigate what space exists at the Cole plot when the snow melts/ground thaws.

- Motion: Jackie moved that she write a letter on behalf of the trustees noting that as a Kensington resident, George has a right to a two-person plot in the cemetery. Norm seconded. A roll call vote was held.
  - Norm: Aye
  - Jackie: Aye
  - Nancy: Aye

#### 2020 Annual Report

- Nancy volunteered to draft the cemetery trustees letter for the town annual report.

#### Cemetery Gate

- Norm and Nancy noted the cemetery gate is usually closed in winter to prevent cars from driving in and getting stuck or tearing up the road.
  - Norm moved that he be delegated to close the gate as soon as possible. Jackie seconded.
    - Jackie: Aye
    - Norm: Aye
    - Nancy: Aye

The next meeting of the trustees was set for February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

Jackie called for the meeting to adjourn at 7:05 PM. Norm seconded. A roll call vote was held:

- Jackie: Aye
- Norm: Aye
- Nancy: Aye