

Meeting of the Kensington Cemetery Trustees

Thursday, March 10th 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes

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

The meeting was in person at the town hall.

In Attendance

Present:

Cemetery Trustees: Jackie Benson, Katelynn Dow

Absent:

Nancy Roffman

Call to order at 6:38 PM.

Minutes

No minutes were reviewed.

Old Business

2022 Budget:

- Jackie reviewed the 2022 budget with our new trustee, Katelynn..

Mowing:

- No update on the mowing contract yet.

Fence:

- Jackie received an estimate from CertaPro for painting the fence, amounting to \$7886. This is slightly more than the \$7,000 budgeted. The trustees discussed whether the additional \$886 could be taken from the money set aside for tree maintenance this year. No decision was made as the trustees want to discuss with Nancy.

Stone Repair:

- Gravestone Services of New England has agreed to do the \$11,000 (\$10K encumbered plus \$1K in 2022 budget) work on repairing Lower Yard stones. This should bring most of the damaged stones into repair. A handful might be left over as the original quote was for \$12,000 and the trustees can tackle those in a future year.

Tree Service:

- Issue was discussed, no action needed.

Cemetery Bylaws:

- Katelynn will review sample bylaws recommended by the NH Cemetery Association to find a good prototype for Kensington's bylaws. She'll share with Jackie and Jackie will adapt to align with Kensington practices.

Cemetery Records:

- Jackie has entered 2021 burials into the database and modified spreadsheet to include cremation vs. whole burial and veteran status.

- Jackie reached out to Ron Strickland of the Legion to ask for his list of veterans graves but has not heard back. Katelynn suggested the trustees simply visit the cemetery after the Memorial Day flags have been installed and make a note of the graves where they are located to create our own records.

New Business:

Trust funds:

- Jackie updated Katelynn on challenges of current Perpetual Care and Perpetual Care & Good of the Cemetery funds. Trustees discussed asking the Trustees of the Trust Funds whether we need a new fund in order to accept donations that could be used for general cemetery care, or whether we could use an existing fund if clearer documents are written up for future donations. Jackie will attend the next Trustees of the Trust Funds meeting to ask.
- Jackie will also ask the Trustees of the Trust Funds whether one of the existing funds can be used as a vehicle for carrying over cemetery funds for tree and stone maintenance from year to year, which could then be withdrawn to pay for bigger projects as needed.

Right to Burial Documentation

- Jackie informed the trustees that we are out of compliance with NH state law in that we do not require those buried in existing plots to prove ownership of 'right to internment' in said lot. As Kensington has never issued plot deeds or 'right to internment' documents, descendants obviously won't have clear paperwork proving their right to burial in the plot. Other towns have run into similar issues and have created forms for those wishing to be buried to fill out. The forms state that the individual either has ownership of the 'right to internment' – by inheritance – or has checked with any other individuals who might make a similar claim and received their permission to use the plot. We looked at an example from Brentwood. The trustees concurred that it would be very prudent for us to promptly institute a similar process in Kensington. Jackie is going to adapt the Brentwood template for Kensington's specific policies and bring it to the next trustees meeting to review, modify if needed and then vote to put into use.
- The trustees also discussed that they will want to create 'right to internment' documents for new plots moving forward. These documents will name the owner of the 'right to internment' in a given plot and provide space for that person to list the other individuals who could potentially be buried in the plot, as long as space is available. Templates from other towns will be used as a guideline. Jackie will type up a draft and bring it to the next trustees meeting. As part of this discussion, the trustees also talked about whether they might provide 'right to internment' documents to Kensington residents upon request to assist them with advance planning. This would be a break with traditional Kensington practice – which has been to only grant permission to be buried upon a person's death and only if they are still resident in Kensington at the time of their death – but the trustees think it worth consideration. We will discuss the issue further at our next meeting, when hopefully all three trustees will be present.

No new meeting date was set.

Meeting was adjourned at 8PM.