

# Meeting of the Kensington Cemetery Trustees

Tuesday August 9, 2022 at 4:00 PM

Kensington Library

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

The meeting was in person at the Kensington Library.

## **In attendance:**

*Present:*

Cemetery Trustees:

Katelynn Dow, Jackie Benson, Nancy Roffman

*Absent:*

None

*Public:*

Pat and Arthur Bonnevie

Call to order at 4:00 PM.

## **Minutes:**

No minutes were reviewed.

## **New business:**

1. Requested exception to Kensington burial policy for the burial of the son of Kensington residents Patsy and Ed Mitchell
  - a. Jackie shared with the trustees that she was contacted by John Brewitt of the Brewitt Funeral Home. Patsy and Ed Mitchell, Kensington residents, were asking if they could open a plot in the Kensington cemetery before their own decease in order to accommodate the burial of their son Rob. The Mitchells has asked for a three or four grave lot, as it was Patsy and Ed's wish that their son be a whole internment, and it was possible his wife might want to be buried with him when her time came.

Jackie noted that this does not align with current town policy—which has been that a new plot can only be open for someone who dies while resident of Kensington—but argued that she thought an exception should be made in the case of the Mitchells on compassionate grounds so that their son could be buried with family and near enough for them to pay their respects.

Pat and Arthur asked whether this decision, if approved, would constitute a precedent. The trustees noted that it was a specific exception, and that any other unusual burial requests in the future would be considered by the trustees on a case-by-case basis. There was also some discussion of the draft cemetery bylaws and whether those would be relevant to the Mitchell case. It was shared that in their current form, the draft bylaws would not permit opening a plot in the cemetery under these circumstances. Jackie suggested that the trustees may want to modify the draft to allow for the cemetery trustees to consider applications for an exception based on unusual or extenuating circumstances.

Pat and Arthur also asked how much space was left in the cemetery. The trustees did not have a concrete number of remaining spaces but noted that the entire green area in the Dearborn annex is still available for new plots, and that the establishment of new plots has been averaging roughly 1-2 per year. Most burials taking place in Kensington are family members joining those in already existing plots.

- b. Jackie moved that the Kensington Cemetery Trustees make an exception to current policy and open a three grave space for Kensington residents Patsy and Ed Mitchell, permitting the first interment to be that of their recently deceased son.

Katelynn seconded.

All voted in favor.

## 2. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 4:23 PM.