

Spring Grove Cemetery Trustees

Minutes November 8, 2014

Present: Jack Bigelow, Sandra Dearborn, William Canane, Richard Amsterdam

Also Present: Paul Sanborn, Superintendent of Parks & Grounds, Forestry,
Wayne Nadar, Dog Officer 9:10 – 9:30 AM

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM

Cemetery Walkthrough

The trustees had a brief discussion of the sign. Jack stopped by the company we received a quote from and looked at the material for the new sign. We want to be sure the material will hold up in the weather better than the last sign. Paul is going to try to find out where the new sign at the dog park was made and get a quote. Jack will get another price quote.

Paul informed the trustees that a storm last weekend left a lot of debris. The cemetery staff has been cleaning up and preparing for Veteran's Day. The highway department will come through and sweep on Monday. The contractor has been working to remove leaves in his section and will be ending his contract this week. The temporary seasonal position will be posted in the next few weeks and should be filled in December. A permanent position will be posted in July.

Wayne Nadar arrived at 9:10. He said he drives through at least 2 or 3 times a week which is logged at the police station. He does speak to anyone he sees that does not have their dog on a leash. The trustees told him they were considering a ban on dogs in the cemetery because of the increase in unleashed dogs. Wayne told us that West Parish cemetery has implemented a dog ban but they are a private cemetery. He suggested that because we are a town cemetery we should check on how a ban could be enforced. We all agreed it would be difficult to enforce. He told us he did have a complaint that a dog was running loose during a funeral but by the time he got here the dog was gone. The trustees agreed that unleashed dogs remain a problem. Wayne told us even through the winter many dog owners prefer the cemetery because there are fewer cars. The trustees thanked Wayne for his input and suggestions regarding the trustees concerns of unleashed dogs in the cemetery.

The placement of headstones in the new section S was discussed. Paul informed the trustees that the headstones will be laid out East to West which is the traditional lay out.

The trustees decided to move the two markers that are between the Veteran's section and the new section S. The markers will be moved to the beginning of the slope on the other side of the tree. It was also decided that the one marker in the middle will be removed. This will keep the entire top of the hill and out to the street reserved for the Veteran's section.

The trustees discussed the shrubs at some of the gravesites. A few years ago the owners of graves with shrubs that were not maintained were sent letters regarding removal of them. Many owners responded

and agreed to their removal. The trustees will try to contact the owners again of the graves with remaining shrubs and request permission to remove them.

The trustees would like to see some type of holder for the trash cans. The black wrought iron ones used in town were discussed. Paul said he will find out the cost of them. It was also decided that they should be placed at each of the water spigots.

The water spigots were then discussed and it was decided that a short hose will be attached to each one. This will make it easier to fill the watering can. It was also decided that plastic watering cans will be purchased and attached to each spigot instead of the plastic milk containers.

A discussion of the Parks and Grounds being “temporarily” located in the cemetery took place. The Parks & Grounds department was “temporarily” relocated to the cemetery in 2007. We were told at the time it would be for a year or less. Sandy reviewed previous documentation from 2008 with the trustees since Bill and Dick were not members at the time. Massachusetts General Laws which prohibit such use in a cemetery were reviewed as well as newspaper articles, letters to the selectman, and an amendment to Article 49 at the 2008 Town Meeting which passed by more than a 2/3 vote stating that “no relocating or construction of a Parks & Grounds building will occur within the boundaries of the Spring Grove Cemetery.” It was decided that a letter will be written to the Selectman reminding them of the trustee’s position on this. Sandy will draft a letter and send it to the other members for review. Jack would like to get this to them as soon as possible since the town yard discussions are ongoing and we are not sure if all the current selectman are aware of the history and the trustee’s position.

A reminder that the Veteran’s Day ceremony will be at 11:00 AM on Tuesday.

December meeting cancelled. Next meeting January 2015.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM