



*Town of Ware
Cemetery Commission
99 Pleasant Street, Ware, Massachusetts 01082*

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
CEMETERY COMMISSION
MONDAY, October 26, 2020**

Location: Town Hall, Ware, MA
Present: Craig Simmons, Julie Bullock, Roy Erickson, John Piechota

Meeting was called to order at 3:20 pm

Minutes

BULLOCK: Motion to approve the minutes of the September 9th and September 21st meeting minutes as written.
ERICKSON: Second
All were in favor

Finances

ERICKSON: Motion to pay Turley Publications \$108.85 out of the Perpetual Care Fund
BULLOCK: Second
All were in favor

Updates from John Piechota

John reported that Tom Clark has made a decision not to return to the Cemetery position next year. Joe Harper will be leaving the Cemetery position to take a full time position with the Highway Department. There is someone from the DPW that might be interested in taking Joe Harper's job next year. The new person will have to be trained.

John has heard nothing from Lemaitre.

The vacuum is up and running. Once the weather improves, they will start on the leaves.

Flat markers were installed. Two stones have been up righted. There is one more stone for Bill Cote to work on.

The large pine tree located in Section O/D up on the hill has come down.

There are a lot of tree issues. Craig asked if the tree warden should get involved and give an assessment of the work to be done. John feels that 90% of the work can be done in-house. There are a lot of dead trees in Town and they determine the priorities.

John had a conversation with Stuart regarding making the cemetery position a full time job, which might help keep an employee. Maybe Craig can provide Stuart with a list of what is involved in the position to justify it being full time. Maybe Gibby and Stuart would attend a Cemetery Commission meeting. John suggested that they keep asking. Julie suggested to perhaps put something in writing. Julie and Roy will put together some ideas for a full time position.

John will get Memorial Garden ready in case of COVID cases.

Warrants for the November Town meeting should be submitted by November 15th. Craig had a Warrant idea of amending the Revolving Account to allow money to be used for infrastructure in the Cemetery as needed.

Tracy Meehan joined the meeting to provide some information regarding the use of the Revolving Account. She stated that the account is used for things regarded as part of a burial and it cannot be amended and used for infrastructure. There was some further discussion and Tracy agreed to look into another account that could be set up to spend money anyway the Commission needed.

Aspen Grove Entrance

Roy would like to see the work at the Aspen Grove entrance be completed. The hitching post was plowed over. It should be taken out or replaced.

Memorial Day Flowers

There was a discussion regarding three lots that the Commission has been paying to decorate with flowers for Memorial Day. Tracy Meehan reviewed documentation and determined that there are no separate trusts set up by the Town under the following names meaning the monies were most likely deposited into the Perpetual Care fund.

Osmer Fitts Trust – the Town used to receive a check each year for flowers and then received a balance with no other documentation for further disbursement.

Robert Jordan Gift – the will stated use of the money to be used for maintenance of Aspen Grove Cemetery and specifically the burial lot owned by Gertrude S. Jordan. There is no way to determine if the funds were depleted.

Lillian Blood – there is no documentation or record of receipts.

ERICKSON: Motion to discontinue paying for Memorial Day flowers to be placed on the Osmer Fitts, Jordon and Blood grave sites.

BULLOCK: Second
All were in favor.

Misc.

Craig suggested having a pizza party up at the Park Barn for the employees around Thanksgiving time. All agreed.

There was a discussion regarding the Preservation Matching Grant. Craig suggested sending Julie ideas and she will prepare information for a grant.

Roy asked about organizing a group of volunteers to work in the Cemetery. Craig suggested that he set up "friends of the Aspen Grove Cemetery" for which Roy could be an advisor but not be on the board.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:30. The next meeting will in November via ZOOM. There will be no meeting in December.

Recorder
Nancy Dunn

Approved:

Craig Simmons _____

Julie Bullock _____

Roy Erickson _____



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**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
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MONDAY, October 26, 2020**

Location: Town Hall, Ware, MA
Time: 3:15
Present: Craig Simmons, Julie Bullock, Roy Erickson, John Piechota

Meeting was called to order at 3:15 pm

Julie Bullock shared a copy of the Cemetery Fee Schedule for Hardwick, MA for information.

The current rates for Aspen Grove were reviewed.

# Of Lots	Present Rates.	New Rates	Sale of Lots.	Perpetual Care Fund
1.	\$500.	\$500.	\$250.	\$250
2.	\$900.	\$1000.	\$ 500.	\$500
4	\$1700.	\$2000.	\$1000.	\$1000
6.	\$2500.	\$3000.	\$1500.	\$1500
8.	\$3300.	\$4000.	\$2000.	\$2000
Memorial Garden.	\$250.	\$250.	\$125.	\$125 Sent

SIMMONS Motion to approve the cemetery rate increases effective January 1, 2021
ERICKSON: Second
All were in favor

There was no further discussion.

Craig Simmons will send an email to Tracy Meehan, Cebula Funeral Home, Varnum Funeral Home and Barnes and Story to advise them of the new rates.

Nancy Dunn will send a follow-up letter to each Funeral Home.

The public meeting was adjourned at 3:15.

Approved:

Craig Simmons _____

Julie Bullock _____

Roy Erickson _____