

BETHANY CEMETERY COMMISSION

MINUTES

February 18, 2021

(via Webex)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kris Sullivan at 7:32 pm. In attendance were members Will Brinton, Carol Goldberg and Kris Sullivan.

The commission discussed the total charge for a grave opening of a full burial and cremation, when done at the same time. Kris noted that there is no additional work to add a cremation urn on top of a full burial. Carol expressed a desire to review our regulations before deciding, so the issue was tabled until the next meeting.

Will reported that he recently spoke to outgoing finance manager Sheila Lane, along with interim finance manager Tom Ellis regarding the state-managed cemetery fund. The Selectmen agreed in 2012 to deposit proceeds from lot sales into this fund, but this never happened. The commission will work to compile a list of all lots sold after July 1, 2012 and present a request to the Selectmen and Board of Finance to transfer these proceeds into the cemetery fund.

Several veteran's markers were recently discovered at the Public Works facility. These were found to be duplicates of ones already in place. Kris found that the recommended best practice for duplicate stones is to destroy them so that the lettering is no longer legible. The consensus was to proceed in this manner. Public works will be contacted to see if they can perform this task.

Kris reported that Section E map corrections have been completed on our end and we are ready to have town engineer Dave Nafis update the map. Once the snow is gone, it would also be a good time to pin both Sections E and C, as well as add any burials since 2014, so we have an accurate master map. Carol made a motion, seconded by Kris, to engage Nafis to do this work when weather permits. Unanimous approval.

Will was contacted by the Roddy family regarding deeds for some family members and placement of a veteran's stone for Gilbert Roddy. Will met Jane Roddy on site a few weeks ago and discovered that Gilbert was buried one grave east of where he should have been located. The Roddy and related Carbone families purchased a total of 10 plots, 5 in Row C and 5 in Row D to create a connected, rectangular family plot. Given that two family members have already been buried and stones installed, we would either need to relinquish two plots or disinter Mr. Roddy and move his stone one grave west to correct this issue. Will agreed to check with Bob Marek to see what the costs would be so we can make an informed decision.

Bob Marek said that there is a state program to reimburse towns for the cost of installing veteran's footstones such as Mr. Roddy's. Will agreed to follow up with him to get more information and Kris will investigate it as well.

The issue of where to begin selling cremation plots was discussed. We did not formally pick a starting point like we did for full plots. Upon examining the map of Section D, the consensus was to start from the furthest east cremation plot in Row A, and go west, skipping over any full plots that are available. These plots are 3' x 5', so only flush monuments will be allowed. If someone wishes an above ground stone, they will be directed to purchase a full plot.

Will mentioned that we should establish a procedure to add flags to new veteran's graves. When individuals are buried, we will attempt to get this information from either the funeral homes or families. Carol also suggested doing an inventory of existing veteran footstones to ensure that all these graves have flag holders as well.

The minutes of the January 16, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Kris made a motion, seconded by Will to approve as presented. Unanimous approval.

The minutes of October 15, 2020 and October 18, 2020 meetings were reviewed. Carol made a motion, seconded by Kris to approve as presented. Unanimous approval.

Carol made a motion, seconded by Kris, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm. Unanimous approval.

William L. Brinton

William L. Brinton
Acting Secretary

