

BETHANY CEMETERY COMMISSION

MINUTES

March 25, 2021

(via Webex)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kris Sullivan at 6:02 pm. In attendance were members Will Brinton, Michael Calhoun, Carol Goldberg and Kris Sullivan.

The commission reopened discussion from last meeting about the grave opening fee for a full burial and cremation(s), when done at the same time. Michael made a motion, seconded by Kris, to charge the full burial fee only, regardless of whether cremations are included, if it is done the same day, in the same opening. Unanimous approval.

The inventory of plot sales from July 1, 2012 to the present is ongoing and will be reported on further at the next meeting.

The Commission reviewed the discovery of duplicate veteran's footstones at the public works facility. The proper method of disposition is to destroy in such a way that the stones are unreadable. Kris said that public works has taken care of this issue.

Kris reported that she has not yet spoken to town engineer Dave Nafis about Carrington Cemetery mapping and pinning but will do so before the April meeting.

The Roddy family plots were discussed again by the commission. Will met Bob Marek earlier in the week at Carrington Cemetery to measure and probe the area. It was determined that Gilbert Roddy was buried in Section D, Row C, Grave 12 with his vault slightly encroaching on Grave 13. Bob noted that the cost to move an existing grave and stone would be about \$800, which is the same as the purchase price of a plot.

Carol suggested that the two "extra" plots in question, Row C, Grave 13 and Row D, Grave 13, be conveyed to the Roddy family, on the condition that if they desired to utilize them in the future, the right to do so would need to be purchased from the town at that time. This would maintain a cohesive family plot, while also protecting the town's interests. Kris made a motion, seconded by Michael, to have Town Counsel add language to the standard cemetery deed necessary to establish the terms as stated by Carol above. Unanimous approval.

The secondary issue of the Roddy veteran footstone was also discussed. Based on conversations with the State Veterans Affairs office, it appears that the \$100 reimbursement for installation only extends up to 2 years after date of death. In normal circumstances, this paperwork is handled by the funeral homes. The consensus was that the town should in general stay out of this process. However, in the case of Mr. Roddy, since overall timing and circumstances are not clear, the commission will take responsibility for installing the stone.

The commission continued discussion about tracking new veteran's graves to facilitate placing of memorial flags. Will thought the most efficient method would be to ask the funeral homes at the time of burial and make a notation on the burial permit.

The minutes of the February 18, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Carol made a motion, seconded by Kris to approve as presented. Unanimous approval.

The next regular meeting will be April 15, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

Michael made a motion, seconded by Kris, to adjourn the meeting at 6:29 pm. Unanimous approval.

William L. Brinton

William L. Brinton
Acting Secretary

