

Cemetery Commission Minutes - FINAL
Thursday Jan. 12, 2023 @ 9am
Chilmark Town Hall, 401 Middle Road

Those in attendance: Judie Flanders, Matt Tobin, Laurisa Rich, Kara Shemeth, Susan Murphy (10-10:50)

Meeting called to order at 9:02

A. Approval of Minutes 12/8/22 - approved unanimously as written

B. Administrator report

1. **New applications** - The DeWitt, West/Ziebarth, Moore, and Winter applications were approved and signed.
2. **Correspondence** - none
3. **Calendar review** - not addressed

C. Superintendent report

1. **Cemetery activity** - 2022 totals: 3 full burials, 24 cremations, 0 green burials
2. **Fall Cleanup report** - Don Sexton's bill of \$4,575 and Crosswater Landscape bill of \$2,705 were submitted.

D. Old Business

1. **Signage** - We are pleased with the signs ordered and received. Kara will forward final copy of invoice to Judie. The \$ total will be charged to Bldg & Grounds. Laurisa will assist Susan in posting the signs.
2. **Noman's cemetery update** - It was decided that Laurisa will contact the US Fish and Wildlife with numerous questions and request we be updated on the 2015 reinterment project (with photos and GPS coordinates) and that we be notified of all future projects.
3. **CPC funds application update** - CPC met 1/10/23 and enthusiastically granted our request of \$10,000.
 - They asked that we vet Alan Gowell's qualifications and research other cemetery marker restorers.
 - Monies are available July 1, 2023. Contractor will submit bill to CPC admin who then pays it. We plan to apply for further funds and Kara advise we begin process in August.

4. **Budget update** - The budget approved in Dec. was submitted to the FinComm by the 1/5 deadline. Apprx \$6000 remains in Bldg & Grounds.

E. New Business -

1. **Regulations amendment: Perpetual Care** - requires a public hearing and Town meeting approval
 - Proposed wording: III. D. Cement liners and embalming are not required for burials. Graves without liners will be assessed a fee of \$ ____ to be deposited in Abel's Hill Cemetery's Perpetual Care Fund for the purpose of future grooming due to natural subsidence of soil.
 - We decided that since new regulations were passed making cement liners optional, the Town is responsible for care of grave's subsidence issues. We voted unanimously to reverse last month's vote to assess an additional fee.
2. **Annual Town report due 2/1/23** - We reviewed Judie's draft report. Laurisa will review 2022 minutes for further suggestions. Judie will write the report.

F. Topics not anticipated -

1. **Kara's departure**- Kara's new work commitments in Edgartown will necessitate her leaving us as our Admin Assistant.
2. **AHC volunteers** - FinComm suggested we consider using volunteer for some cemetery tasks. We agreed it would require supervision and not involve power tools. We discussed various options i.e. gathering of post-holiday decorations, Veteran flags, post-storm branches...

Next meeting scheduled - February 9, 2023 at 9am

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 pm

**Respectfully submitted,
Laurisa Rich
Secretary**

Documents Reviewed at meeting:

Judie's email dated 1/14/23, Subject: Annual Report - draft