

APPROVED

Chilmark Cemetery Commission

The Chilmark Cemetery Commission held a public hearing at Town Hall on Thursday, February 8, 2018. The hearing opened at 2:00p.m. and was followed by a commission meeting. Two commissioners were present, Harriette Otteson and Sally Cook, also Cemetery Superintendent Susan Murphy.

Harriette open the hearing by reading the corrections in the Cemetery Regulations, announced in the public hearing notice as the subject for the hearing. The corrections were approved. Laura and Chris Murphy attended the hearing with a request to remove the flat stones on the Murphy lot and install one more large vertical stone that can be inscribed with many family names. Laura showed her drawing of the lot with the requested two vertical stones plan. The inscriptions will not reflect more burials than allowed in the Cemetery Regulations. However, Laura asked if cremated remains could be inserted above the caskets in the Murphy lot. Superintendent Susan Murphy explained that there is about three feet from ground level to the top of a buried casket, and the hole for an urn leaves about one foot from ground level to urn. The commissioners approved the two big stones, replacing the smaller markers, for the Murphy lot. Addressing the question of inserting cremated remains above a casket was postponed to the next meeting when all commissioners will be present. A brief discussion of green burials followed. Chris Murphy suggested the commission re-think the Cemetery Regulations requirement for a cement liner in casket burials. The suggestion will be taken up in a future meeting of the commission. The Public Hearing closed at 2:12p.m. at which time the commission began the monthly meeting.

Tim Carroll attended the meeting briefly to inform the commission that the FinCom removed the commissions warrant article for more funding. Susan Murphy stated that more funds are needed for cemetery clean up. The commission will meet and vote on the possibility of taking amounts from the trust funds(Floss Mayhew and Perpetual Care) for cemetery maintenance. The Cemetery Commission will have to take any request for trust funding to the Board of Selectmen for approval. With no further business, the Commissioners agreed to meet in March, second Thursday or the eighth. This meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Sarah Cook, Secretary

*Sarah Cook, March 8, 2018*