

Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes **FINAL**

Thursday, March 12, 2020 3:00 PM

Chilmark Town Hall 401 Middle Rd, Conference Room #1

Those in attendance:

Sally Cook, Judie Flanders, Susan Murphy (after 3:15)

Meeting called to order at 3:03 pm

A. Minutes from Feb 20, 2020 – Discussion ensued but voting to approve the minutes was postponed until the next meeting. Suggestion made that the last sentence in section E of the 2/20/20 minutes be eliminated.

B. New lease applications and lot availability– Those interested in purchasing a plot will be offered the current available spots (half lots) in the “new” section. Other requests for plots will be deferred until the new layout and regulations are in place. Jennifer will explain to people inquiring for a lot that the commission is revising the rules and regulations, that the requests received to date raise some very valid points and will be considered by the full commission in April.

C. Judie will send to Jennifer the board’s “appreciative welcome” letter to Lenny Jason for his appointment as Veterans’ Cemetery Representative by the Selectmen. Jen will see to the letter’s delivery when complete.

D. Superintendents’ Report – Susan has contacted Alice H. Stevens’ relatives who agree to the commissions request that Alice be the only Stevens relative to be buried in the Swift lot, and agreed to a very modest monument. Susan showed photos of the Swift lot, indicating there is ample room in this old section plot for this burial and monument.

Susan presented two quotes for road repair and the acknowledgement of the opportunity to bid by a third. Pricing and materials were discussed. The commissioners have accepted the quote from Steve Jaffee (Crosswater Landscape) for the road work (total cost \$1590.) Additionally, decision was made for Susan to purchase #50 split wood rails from Cottles for \$655. It was agreed to have Crosswater Landscape install the rails, starting along the South (State road side) given the estimate that it would take 3 men 4 hrs to replace the rails at a cost of \$720. Sally will review funding to decide where payment for these services should come.

Susan reminded the committee that next month’s meeting should include time for her evaluation. Sally also pointed out that Susan is already at step 4 and will go to step 5 in July of 2020.

E. Continuing Discussion of Layout of Near West Wing, items I, II and III from the current Rules and Regulations. Also reviewed concurrently was Sally’s “Summary” of suggested changes.

IA) Eligibility – ownership of a buildable lot should be for a duration of 5 years. Further discussion with Laurisa’s suggestions to be considered next month.

ID) Provision for a Resident of Chilmark to own a plot discussed. It was felt the resident should be a year round “renter or caretaker”....

II) Numbering: Preliminarily 40 full lots will be laid out, which Susan feels she can do herself. Suggestion was made that metal numbered discs not be used to identify each lot (vote deferred). The Cioffi lot will remain 304, and new plots will start with 300 on the far north side of the NWW.

A suggestion was given to intersperse full, half and quarter plots throughout the new section. No vote taken. In the interim Susan will review with Alan Gowell the layout as well as placement of roads. Discussion on the set back dimensions of each plot (1 foot around perimeter of each plot) raised concerns of how much room must be left for digging new graves in the future (decision deferred). An area in the NWW could also be designated as a place available for ash scattering (decision deferred).

III A) Susan questioned as to whether a cement vault is required by law. Susan will ask Alan Gowell and Jennifer for clarification.

III B) Discussion held, decision deferred. The language to consider granting a double lot for an extended family only with the discretion of the commissioners will be revisited.

IIIC) Green Burial discussion postponed.

IIID) Number of caskets/ green burials and urns in each size plot discussed.

Suggested: Full lot – 2 caskets or green burials, 6 or more urns

Half Lots – 1 casket or green burial, 4 or more urns

Cremation lot – no casket or green burial, 2 or more urns.

It was agreed to leave the first half lots bordering the present road on the east side of the FWW not for lease and to sell the other lots in numbered order. Pricing of plots and road plans to be discussed next meeting. Judie will prepare discussion for items IV and V of the rules and regulations, Laurisa will address green burial regulations.

Next meeting tentatively set for April 9 at 3 PM.

Documents reviewed at this meeting:

Quotes and proposals for road and railing repairs

Packet from Jennifer Christy: Draft regulations

Draft application procedures

Draft Cemetery plot application

Current Plot Applications to consider

Vacant Plot list