

BOARD OF CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS
May 31, 2017 5:30 PM Minutes
Belmont Town Hall, Conference Room 1

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DATE: August 31, 2021
TIME: 3:38 PM

AGENDA

Members attending: Bill Chemelli, Alex Corbett, Ellen Cushman

Continued review of the Belmont Day School Plans from Cemetery perspective

- The Board discussed whether an additional letter should be sent to the Planning Board given the Public Hearing sessions. The following points were made and the Board asked Ellen to send the letter to the Planning Board as soon as possible. The focus is to get the Planning Board to stand up for Belmont's Highland Meadow Cemetery, now and in perpetuity, to protect the cemetery environment, design and operations. The Board also voted unanimously to give authority to Ellen to write any additional advisories between meetings of the Cemetery Commission, as things develop in the Planning Board public hearing process.
- In short, our new concerns:
 - The crushed stone and emergency flow pip proposed for under the road are not tied into the School's containment tanks but if the roadway/drive is constructed, we believe that this connection to the containment tank should be a requirement.
 - We agree with Mr. DeStefano's comment that the gravel proposed for the along-road parking will daily clog the proposed permeable pavement solution putting additional pressure on the maintenance requirement for vacuuming the surface to allow it to remain permeable.
 - The Cemetery Commissioners are not engineers, but we're smart enough to know that the Town's Cemetery interests need protection forever. We implore the Planning Board to require a peer review of the stormwater to the fullest extent possible.
 - We do not oppose the construction and use of the driveway as an emergency road but do continue to oppose its designation and use by the entire school population and general public. With the neighbors, we request a peer review of the traffic consultant work submitted by the Day School.
 - The bordering wall between the Day School and Highland Meadow is not continuous; there are breaks in the wall that, if the roadway is constructed, would need to be filled in. We constructed the wall with these breaks upon the assurances of Andrew Troop, former Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Day School and Linessa Leanna, former Head of School, that the strip of land would serve as their natural buffer to the cemetery and would therefore not be developed. They were concerned

that the children would be adversely affected by views into the cemetery operations.

Advisory letter to lot Owners at Highland Meadow Cemetery of Belmont Day School expansion plans and possible effects on Cemetery

- The Board discussed whether we should send a letter or postcard to the current lot owners at Highland Meadow to inform them of the significant change expected next door. Bill felt strongly that we need to let them know and call them to action, Alex and Ellen agreed. Ellen will work with Nancy Fay to pull the list of lot owners and Ellen will draft the letter – including some of the concerns of the Commissions, informing them of the Public Hearing process by the Planning Board, encouraging them to add their voices.
 - Stormwater and drainage
 - Preserving the wooded aesthetic of the shared border
 - Placement of new roadway/driveway with parking incorporated along the roadway
 - Want to protect Highland Meadow from encroachment
- Approval of minutes – No minutes were voted

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen O'Brien Cushman
Chairman