

**Board of Cemetery Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2007**

Meeting convened at 5:32 pm at the office of the Belmont Cemetery. Members attending: Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Alexander Corbett, Charles Johnson. Robert Gardiner, Cemetery Superintendent, also attended.

The Board examined the samples of Chip Seal material to be used on the road for the Highland Meadow Cemetery and voted unanimously to have sample A (a variable mix aggregate) to be installed. Ellen will communicate this to Green Acres and Halvorson.

Since there is but one road in the Highland Meadow Place Cemetery, the Board does not feel naming is required at this time. The Board and Building Committee will consider traffic flow and signage to designate zones and walking paths this spring. Large boulders with the names of landscape zones, Orchard, Meadow, Cityplace Woodland are considered desirable at this time.

The Board discussed a request a Town employee to allow non-resident Town employees to purchase burial lots at Highland Meadow Cemetery. The Board referred to Town of Belmont Bylaw 10, which states that only residents of the Town may purchase lots. The Board will not ask Town Meeting to make a Bylaw change at this time but would remain open to the request after the cemetery is open and full demand is known.

Service prices were discussed. The Board voted unanimously to hold fees for services at present 2006-2007 levels and to use the same fee structure for both cemeteries. The Board has committed to reexamine the fee structure and lot prices for 2008.

May is target opening of Highland Meadow Cemetery. Board unanimously voted to plan a three phase opening process: 1. Test opening of unsold grave for operational efficiency, 2. Inter the deceased who have been held, pending the opening, and 3. A ceremonial opening of the gate to all interments, with a small, dignified ceremony.

Superintendent Gardiner apprised the Board of the fiscal 2007-08 budget request through the DPW. An increase of \$90K was requested, comprised of \$46K in 3 seasonal part-time workers, \$10K for soil removal in anticipation of capping the incinerator site, \$28K for GIS software to manage both cemeteries, including remote internet-accessible information.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Chairman