

**Board of Cemetery Commissioners
Minutes of the Public Meeting
September 15, 2020 at 6 PM**

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: April 22, 2021

TIME: 9:13 AM

Members attending: Alex Corbett, Bill Chemelli, Ellen O'Brien Cushman

Other attending: Mike Santoro

Agenda

The Board expresses its sincere thanks to our wonderful volunteer, Ernie Fay, who watered faithfully all of the new plants in the planting bed throughout the summer/fall. His efforts have given our new planting beds a great start!

Invoices for Approval:

Moved that the following Invoices be approved for payment from the Cemetery Perpetual Care Interest Account:

Pemberton Garden Services Invoice #12041 in the amount of \$20,105.51 including all approved supplemental work

- For design, purchase of plant material and installation of landscape circles and pruning, removal trimming of the landscape border along Concord Avenue as bid for Highland Meadow Cemetery.

JJ Landscaping Invoice #51479 \$1,184

- For hauling of 74 yards of stripped soil and dead plant matter from the landscape circles removed from Highland Meadow Cemetery

JJ Landscaping Invoice #514168 \$432

- For hauling of 27 yards of stripped soil and dead plant matter from the landscape circles removed from Highland Meadow Cemetery

D. Muzzioli Associates, Inc. Invoice #403031, \$3,250

- For plant material and installation to restore 44 bushes to the boxwood hedge at Belmont Cemetery Veterans' Area at flagpole, this includes watering until first frost.

N Sacca & Sons Invoice #2730, \$3450

- For masonry repairs to stone walls at Highland Meadow Cemetery on Concord Avenue from the Day School Driveway to the Entrance of Highland Meadow.

Review of Cemetery Regulations

Discussion and vote whether to authorize chairman to obtain a cost estimate for review of Cemetery Regulations by Town Counsel Anderson & Kreiger for clarity consistency and enforceability at both Highland Meadow Cemetery and Belmont Cemetery. There was a brief discussion of the recent inquiries about families inheriting burial rights, transfer of burial rights and whether the transferred rights may be passed on to another, etc. Sue Allegro at the Cemetery office has had to field many of these questions and we'd all feel better with a legal review, make them more formal and defensible. Moved that Chairman Cushman contact Town Counsel Hall to have him review and draft the necessary Regulations, consistent with MGL ch. 114. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote, 3-0-0 ; Yes – Chemelli, Corbett, Cushman; No – 0; Abstain – 0

Concerns – Suzanne Trasavage has noticed several dog walkers in the Cemetery and will be scouting them out and is issuing tickets. Cemeteries and dogs don't mix; it's a clear lack of respect and cannot be tolerated.

Discuss and vote on returning to regular monthly or bi-monthly meeting schedule – Brief discussion, we will target meeting every two months, 2nd Tuesday at 5 PM.

Ellen distributed by email a complaint letter received August 16th from Peter J. Merlino that was mailed to the Select Board about damage to the Aveni and Merlino family's granite headstone at Belmont Cemetery caused by the Town employees in January of 2020. Frank Sartori briefed the Board, stating that the employee did cause a small chip in the stone during preparation for a funeral in the lot. Frank immediately contacted the funeral director to inform the family of the damage; he later offered to have the small chip repaired, but the family refused, insisting that the entire stone must be replaced and the letter indicates a cost of \$15,818.75. The regulations of the cemetery have always indicated that the cemetery is not responsible for the grave markers and Frank advised the representative of the family that they can make a claim through their homeowners policy if they want the full stone replaced. This is an operational issue and Mike Santoro said that he would make sure that Town Administrator Patrice Garvin is aware. Mike and Frank will keep the Board apprised.

Bill Chemelli asked that we place an item on a future agenda to discuss whether we can replace the lot markers at Highland Meadow Cemetery; he has heard that they are experiencing some wear. Ellen said that it's not just replacement of the markers, a survey would be required to place them properly. The Board agreed to discuss at a later time.

Approval of minutes – Alex, Clerk of the Board, said that he is working on the minutes and promises to have sets ready for the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7: 17 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Chairman