

**Cemetery Commission Minutes**  
**January 11, 2021**  
**Dunstable Town Hall**

Present: Ryan McLane, Susan Tully, Susan Psaledakis, Alan Chaney

Meeting was called to order at 11a.m.

Minutes of Nov. 9, 2020 were passed.

Discussion of current fees and rates for burial services were discussed. Standard burials cost \$750 and Cremation burials cost \$100. Alan assured members that these rates are more than adequate to cover the cost of these services. Other costs include \$40 for setting flat markers and \$10 per corner bound.

Burials are held when requested throughout the year.

Discussion moved on to the Cemetery page on the Town Website. Sue P. passed around copies of a brief overview and it was agreed that after several changes it could be sent to Jake for addition to the site. We will continue to expand on the info available on the web page.

Alan passed around an example of a Burial Permit which is filled out by the Superintendent. In Massachusetts these permits are sent to the Board of Health, but in NH they go to the Town Clerk.

Jake joined us to Notarize signatures on the Deed for a 2 grave Lot sold to Mark and Sharie Webster.

Discussion next turned to "Green Burials". Interest has been expressed by the members of the Council on Aging and Sue T. asked that we develop a policy.

Alan said that the term, green burial, is a general term and the question to consider is how green one wants to be.

The most 'green' would be a body not embalmed, wrapped in a sheet and placed in the grave. Next would be to include embalming the body before wrapping and burial.

There may also be use of a simple wooden casket. Finally, would be the use of a bottomless concrete grave box (vault) placed over any of the first three options. The concrete prevents the sinking of the grave while still allowing the body to be naturally absorbed back into the ground.

The first two options of simply burying the body, either embalmed or not, cause very small amounts of caving, but the wooden casket causes the most and therefore usually requires the vault over it.

Some cemeteries designate a separate section for green burials, although the Superintendent does not feel that would be necessary.

A number of funeral directors will handle green burials and they are legal in our state. One of the issues is that the graves themselves must not be driven across.

It was agreed that Alan will research further and will contact other superintendents to see what their experiences have been. He will bring more info to the next meeting and we will continue the discussion.

He continued with a brief history of the use of vaults and other burial customs. The Commission voted unanimously that green burials with the use of a vault will be allowed in our Rules and Regs.

#### New Shed Discussion

There is a need for a new 2 bay shed. One bay would accommodate equipment and the second would contain a work bench and tools. Alan expects the project will cost around \$60,000 and that \$15,000 could come from the Harriet Proctor Fund. Three bids will be necessary. Ryan will bring the project to the attention of the Capital Planning Com.

#### New Business:

Sue T. asked about the cleaning of very old stones that have become unreadable. Alan advised this is best done with just water and a soft bristle brush which will remove lichen. (Never use a wire brush.) Discussed possible costs to have stones done professionally. It was agreed that Alan would take a look at the particular stone Sue was concerned about and work on them in the spring.

Ryan announced that he is being deployed at the end of March and offered to resign or stay on depending on the preference of the rest to the Commission. He will be available to zoom into meetings and can stay in touch. Sue P. moved that we request Ryan to remain on the Commission. Sue T; seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The next meeting will be on April 12 at 11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan K. Psaledakis