

Cemetery Trustees Meeting
June 17, 2021
1:00 pm

In attendance: Marie Grella, Cynthia Dokmo, Lisa Eastland, Eric Hahn, (guests), Deb Quinlan from Smith & Heald and Adam Medlyn from Medlyn Monument

Meeting called to order at 1:05

Citizen Forum: No citizens present

Input from Smith & Heald and Medlyn Monument regarding Forestview Cemetery: Marie Grella introduces Deb Quinlan and Adam Medlyn and asks them how we can help service them better in our new cemetery before we get into dividing the property. Deb Quinlan recommends that as far as laying out the lots in Forestview when it comes to a 4 grave lot other cemeteries will sell them in a block (2 graves in one row and 2 in the joining row) with the headstone in the center of it. In the new section of Milford cemetery, the lots are in rows, you can buy front to back graves with a little bit of a buffer in between but they typically discourage putting a monument in the middle because it impedes the maintenance in between the 2 rows. In other sections they have rows of 4 grave lots (2 in front and 2 in back, creating a block) the monuments are placed in the middle, a section of 2 grave lots where the monuments are placed on the head of the graves. Adam lets us know that the 2' around each lot is helpful for them. Perry states that instead of having a space between each lot, the graves in Forestview Cemetery are 4' instead of 36". Maps of Forestview Cemetery are shared with Deb Quinlan and Adam Medlyn and Marie lets them know that road signs will be place accordingly. Deb asks if there will be a cremation area. Marie states that this is being discussed, along with a memorial wall. Green burials, composting, wicker caskets, and vaults placed upside down on the caskets are discussed. Lisa did some research on green burials. The issue with green burials at Forestview would be the access to the water and the water table and what that would mean if they just required a pine box and no embalming. They would really have to look into this further were the cemetery is so close to beaver brook. Lisa thinks that they really should look into the placement of the memorial wall because by 2030/2040, 70% of all burials will be cremations. For the monument side, Lisa asks if Adam has had people inquiry about smart monuments. Adams has not had any one ask but has been receiving promotional material from companies that offer QR codes to be attached to the backside of a monument, but has not had any clients ask about it. Lisa asks if they were looking for a place to put a memorial wall, what would the land considerations be? What would the weight of that be? What would they need to be thinking about to install something like that? Adam states that it depends on the size. Granite is roughly 120 lbs. per cubic foot on average, and black granite has more iron content in it and a foot marker (2'x 1') tends to be 35lbs. heavier than a regular gray marker. There are many variables, without knowing the rough dimensions it is hard to know what would be needed for installation. Cynthia mentions a memorial park in Florida that 3 sided columns, she will send Adam the pictures she has of them. Lisa asks if it is better to have names engraved or better to have little plaques. Adam states the plaques can be cost effective especially if you go with aluminum, and currently (approx.) the cost of a 4" x 6" plaque is a minimum charge of \$120.00 from his supplier. Quite a bit of information can be put on a plaque compared to engraving. With engraving they do not

like to go any smaller than 3/4" per letter, when clarified becomes an issue. Lisa asks if the granite supply has become an issue. Adam states that it has, he lead time was 6 weeks and now it is approximately 8 to 10 weeks out. Granite coming from overseas could be 4 to 6 months or longer. Adam suggests black granite for columns, tablets, or a solid wall; it tends to polish at a finer surface quality other colors, it's easier and quicker to engrave.

Adam adds that he feels the size of the headstones should be one size larger and maybe different shapes, Cynthia agrees.

Deb Quinlan asks about the size of the lot, Perry states that they are 4' and should take care of larger caskets not encroaching on the other graves.

Adam asks if the Trustees will be using the same type of corner markers that are currently being used at Meadowview. Perry would like the same type with the exception of having some metal on it, to make it easier to locate them when they sink. Deb Quinlan and Adam leave the meeting. There are several items that need to be discussed at future meetings; the layout of graves, placement of headstones; structure, material and placement of the memorial wall; should plaques be used or names engraved in the memorial wall, and what type of directory should be used to catalog the names; green burials.

Flagpole dedication: The flagpole dedication was beautiful. It was very nicely done There were lots of pictures taken, Andrew did a fabulous job; he was very appreciative and grateful. All of the ceremony was very nicely done, from the military section along with the opening and closing, the priest from St. Patrick's zeroed in on veterans because it was Flag Day. Andrew gave Marie an envelope with the balance of \$156.29 that he would like to donate to the Wreath across Amherst or the Flag fund. Cynthia makes a motion to place the donation of \$156.29 in the Flag Fund Lisa seconds this motion, all are in favor, motion passes.

Trees for Forestview: A list of specific trees and their prices were sent to the Cemetery Trustees. John with Amherst Garden suggested some trees and is very willing to meet with them at the Cemetery. Eric Hahn reminds the trustees that they will need to follow the Town Policy and it may be easier to hire a landscape designer to tell the Trustees what would be best in that environment and then put that out to bid.

Allison Steel the re-burial of remains: Marie makes a motion to table this discussion, Lisa seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

Slate Headstones: Marie states that there are a couple of Slate headstones in Meadowview and asks that the trustees go and view them. This can be discussed at our next meeting in July.

Minutes of May 20, 2021: Cynthia makes a motion to approve the minutes of May 20, 2021, Lisa seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

Cynthia makes a motion to adjourn at 2:30pm, seconded by Marie, all in favor, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Delisle