

Town of Amherst, NH
Cemetery Trustee Meeting
22 Dodge Rd
July 21, 2022
1:30 PM

Call to Order at 1:30pm

Marie Grella, Chairperson; Cynthia Dokmo, member; Lisa Eastland, member; Peter Lyon, Selectman; Eric Slosek, DPW Director; Perry Day, Sexton; Pat Delisle attending.

Citizen Forum; No Citizens present.

March Minutes: Lisa makes a motion to approve the minutes of June 23, 2022, Cynthia seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

Software Discussion: Lisa has sent the trustees copies of proposals from the 2 companies that were interested in presenting their software with the Trustees. Some of the abilities that the Trustees are interested in having available would be: custom data migration, lot level mapping, a dashboard, the ability to view individual records, data search, support services. Lisa makes a motion to have the Director of DPW publish an RFP for Cemetery software. This motion is seconded by Cynthia, all in favor, motion passes. Once the RFP is posted Lisa will notify the 2 companies that have submitted proposals.

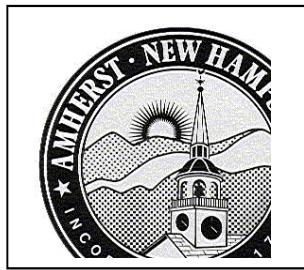
Rules and Regulations: Cynthia has suggestions for changing the rules: she would like to add a paragraph under D.1 that states; exceptions to the height requirement may be made on a case by case basis with the written approval from the Cemetery Trustees. The reason that there is a height restriction is due to higher grave stones blocking the irrigation systems.

#3 suggested change: The Cemetery Sexton will **monitor the maintenance of** all plantings.

A. Flower pots are permitted however they will be removed after 30 days. With the exception of sanctioned Memorial Trees discussed below, planting of any other trees is prohibited, except with the written permission of the Cemetery Trustees. The application submitted to obtain permission must include the type of plantings; approval will be at the sole discretion of the Cemetery Trustees. Such permitted plantings shall abutt the gravestones and not infringe on any other grave sites and not disrupt the normal maintenance of the Cemetery. Applicant or their representative shall have the sole responsibility of maintaining plantings. Plantings shall be removed at the sole discretion by the sexton without notice to any party if it appears that no maintenance has occurred within 2 years.

Right to Inter changes: When people buy a lot, it needs to be clear that a full burial must occur first before cremations. This will avoid the removal of a cremation to bury a full casket burial.

Cremations can be difficult to locate within the grave.



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Finance/Budget: The funds collected for the Right to Inter is deposited into the general fund and goes to the Town. The burial fee collected reimburses the Cemetery Trustees budget. The cost for all the burials will be increased by \$100.00.

Cynthia makes a motion to increase all of the burial fees \$100.00, Lisa seconds this motion, all in favor, motion passes. Lisa makes a motion to amend the motion making the increase effective August 1, 2022, Lisa seconds this motion, motion passes.

Cynthia went up to the State archive and met with Terry Knowles, formerly from the Charitable Trust division. The Town voted to adopt the Senate bill which states that the proceeds from the sale of lots to go to the general fund. In order to get the funds into the Cemetery Trust fund the Trustees had to file a warrant and it could take 15 to 18 months for the funds to go from the general fund to the Trustees accounts. There was concern that they lost a lot of interest because of this. When Terry Knowles was in the house her recollection was that the last sentence in the bill states that this bill will require an annual decision by Town meeting to determine which fund the money to go in. Cynthia feels she is right about this because if you look at the current use taxation law that allows the Town to vote to allow the conservation it specifically state that it will stay in effect until it is revoked by Town meeting, There is no language in the burial Statue that states that. There is no enabling language in the burial Statue that states when it is in effect; it stays in effect until the Town revokes it. The only legal question that needs to be answered is: Whether or not that was a one year warrant article or not. Peter suggests that the Cemetery Trustees and the Selectman meet and try to come to an agreement, Cynthia agrees. Peter states that they should always be open to reviewing that based upon the current circumstances.

Vote to pay invoices: Town of Amherst \$53,719.09, Swenson Granite \$2,393.00, and Amherst Garden Center \$8287.50.

Cynthia moves to pay the Town of Amherst \$53,719.09 and authorizes to the withdrawal from the Alice Wilkins Trust Fund in the amount of \$5,447.12, withdrawal from the George Putnam Trust in the amount of \$2,035.95, withdrawal from the Perpetual Care Trust in the amount of \$40,912.46 and the unrestricted Trust in the amount of \$5,323.56. Lisa votes, yes, Marie votes yes. Vote passes.

Lisa moves to pay Swenson Granite \$2,393.00 and authorizes the withdrawal from the Perpetual Care Trust. Lisa vote, yes: Marie votes, yes. Vote passes.

Cynthia moves to pay Amherst Garden \$8,287.50 and authorizes the withdrawal from the Unrestricted Trust. Lisa votes, yes, Marie votes yes. Vote passes.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40pm
Respectfully submitted,
Pat Delisle