

Approved: 8/16/22

Paxton Cemetery Commission
Meeting Minutes from June 28, 2022
The John Bauer Senior Center, Activity Room
17 West Street, Paxton, MA 01612

Present:

- ✓ **Chairperson:** Joanna A.H. MacGugan (JM)
- ✓ **Vice-Chairperson:** Brian Brosnihan (BB)
- ✓ **Clerk:** Christopher D. Stone (CS)
- ✓ **Director of Public Works:** Travis Thibault (TT)
- ✓ **DPW Administrative Assistant:** Tiffany Sidhom

Additional:

Anita Fenton, Historical Commission
Elizabeth Martin, Barre Cemetery Commission

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

Subject	Discussion	Decision/Recommendation
Meeting Minutes	Review Meeting Minutes from the May 24, 2022 meeting.	Motion (CS) seconded (BB) to approve the minutes as written. (JM) abstained because she was not present at the May 24, 2022 meeting.
Reorganization	The Commission wishes to reorganize as follows: Joanna A.H. MacGugan, Chair Brian Brosnihan, Vice Chair Christopher D. Stone, Clerk	Motion (CS) seconded (BB) to approve the reorganization as stated. Unanimous, all in favor.
Mooreland Cemetery – Maintenance Update	(TT) stated that new fertilizer is twice the cost of what was previously used. (BB) asked if it is necessary to fertilize at all. (CS) asked if lime is an option.	(TT) will look into other costs/alternatives to fertilizing.

Mooreland Cemetery – Maintenance Update (cont'd)	The Commission reviewed two headstone requests: one for Malo at 35 Hemlock East, and one for Wylie at 22 Laurel West.	The Commission approved both headstones.
Mooreland Cemetery – Lot Information Cards	(TT) states that there has not been any further work on the lot information cards due to the busy work season.	
Center Cemetery – Maintenance Update	<p>(CS) asked whether the boulders have been moved. (TT) was not sure.</p> <p>The certified letter was sent to the daycare inside the Congregational Church, asking them to not let the children play in the cemetery. (BB) states that he recently saw the children in the cemetery.</p>	<p>(TT) will look into whether boulders have been moved.</p> <p>(CS) states that any member of the Commission who sees children playing in the cemetery should stop and remind the teachers that it is not permitted. The Commission may need to research options like rope or other boundaries to keep the children out.</p>
Center Cemetery – Grave Stone Restoration Update	(CS) states that in addition to the 18 stones that Historic Gravestone Services has recently completed, another 6 have been completed, and 3-4 are in the works.	
Center Cemetery – Grave Markers Preservation		(CS) still needs to do a walk-through to determine which markers are missing at the Center Cemetery.
Center Cemetery – Historic Walk with Historical Commission Update		(JM) continues to work with the Historical Commission on this event. They are in the process of trying to obtain actors, preferably ones who have period costumes.

Center Cemetery – Historical Commission	<p>Anita Fenton from the Historical Commission presented a request from the third-grade students at Paxton Center School, who recently visited the Center Cemetery. The students requested that specific stones be cleaned and/or repaired, as they were saddened by their state of disrepair. Ms. Fenton provided the Commission with a list and photos of the stones.</p>	<p>The Commission will investigate options for cleaning and maintaining these stones. (CS) mentioned that Historic Gravestone Services offers a course for \$1,000 to teach people to clean and care for stones.</p> <p>Ms. Fenton suggested forming a committee to care for and clean the stones.</p>
New Business – Elizabeth Martin, Green Burials	<p>Elizabeth Martin from the Barre Cemetery Commission shared information on their green burial program.</p> <p>Their Commission had the selected area scanned to be sure that there were no burials already there and that it was not comprised of all ledge. For a green burial, there must not be any embalming or chemicals used; if a casket is used, it must be biodegradable, and vaults are not permitted.</p> <p>Further, their graves are 5x10 and are more shallow than typical graves to reach the right level of oxygen and bacteria in the soil.</p> <p>Additionally, their Commission requires that all burials use a professional funeral director, and all burials are sequential (i.e., there is no choice of where they will be buried; they are only guaranteed a spot in the green burial section).</p>	
Public Comments	None.	

Next Meeting		Tuesday, August 16, 2022 (Subject to Change)
Adjournment		Motion (BB) seconded (JM) to adjourn at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Tiffany Sidhom, DPW Administrative Assistant

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