

Approved: 9/20/22

Paxton Cemetery Commission
Meeting Minutes from August 16, 2022
The John Bauer Senior Center, Activity Room
17 West Street, Paxton, MA 01612

2022 SEP 22 A 11:37

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
PAXTON, MA

Present:

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

Absent:

- ✓ **Vice-Chairperson:** Brian Brosnihan (BB)

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Subject	Discussion	Decision/Recommendation
Meeting Minutes	Review Meeting Minutes from the June 28, 2022 meeting.	Motion (CS) seconded (JM) to approve the minutes as written.
Mooreland Cemetery – Maintenance Update	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Commission reviewed three headstone requests: one for Dawson at 19 Spruce East, one for Ringgard at 27 Hemlock East, and one for LeFave at 19 Hemlock East.2. A fourth request from McGinn at 19 Oak was presented.3. (TT) states that resident across from leaf dump area is requesting that a fence or arborvitaes be installed to alleviate dust issues.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Motion (CS) seconded (JM) to approve all three headstone requests.2. The Commission requests a drawing with dimensions from the monument company before this request is approved.3. The Commission requests that (TT) provide the cost of arborvitaes and then the Commission will vote.

Mooreland Cemetery – Maintenance Update (cont’d)	<p>4. Crews have been trimming hedges and shrubs. Some are very overgrown and (TT) would like to begin removing some. (TT) will also mark dead trees before the leaves begin to fall.</p> <p>5. DPW has encountered some situations where proper paperwork or payment was not available at the time of burial. Suggests that adding language into the Rules and Regulations about using a Funeral Director or making sure that all paperwork is in beforehand may be helpful. Also, no burials may occur on Juneteenth, which is now a holiday.</p> <p>6. (TT) has not yet had a chance to look into fertilizing options. Step 4 will not be done this year because the drought has killed most grass. (CS) asked if lime was put down this year; (TT) was not sure but will check.</p>	<p>4. Commission agrees that (per the Rules and Regulations), any overgrown trees and shrubs should be removed.</p> <p>5. Commission requests that language regarding all items be drafted and the Commission will review.</p>
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	The boulders have been removed. (CS) states that there are bushes there that need to be removed, as well.	(TT) will look into removing the bushes.
Center Cemetery – Grave Stone Restoration Update	(CS) states that Historic Gravestone Services has approximately 10 gravestones left to complete in this phase.	

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 – Options for Cleaning Headstones	The Commission discussed whether to form a committee now and decide on a process for cleaning headstones.	The Commission decided to wait until Historic Gravestone Services is done with their restoration work. The Commission will then perform a walk-through with HGS and determine what still needs to be cleaned, and form a committee thereafter.
Other Business – Green Cemetery Meeting on October 22, 2022	Elizabeth Martin from the Barre Cemetery Commission shared information regarding the creation of a group of green cemeteries in Western/Central MA, which is planning to meet on October 22 nd . (JM) inquired whether anyone from the Commission is interested in attending and learning more.	The Commission requested that (JM) get more information regarding the meeting.
New Business	(CS) received a call from the spouse of the owner of the daycare at the First Congregational Church. The spouse confirmed that they had received the certified letter stating that the daycare children must stay out of the cemetery, and they have relayed that information to their staff.	
Public Comments	None.	
Next Meeting		Tuesday, September 20, 2022 (Subject to Change)

Adjournment		Motion (JM) seconded (CS) to adjourn at 8:14 p.m.
-------------	--	---

Respectfully submitted by:



Tiffany Sidhom, DPW Administrative Assistant

