

GUILFORD CEMETERY COMMISSION - MEETING

Thursday, 20 January 2022, 9:30 am, ZOOM

DRAFT MINUTES

CEMETERY COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Detra, Verandah Porche, Judith Serkin, Eric Morse, Carol Schnabel

- I. Call to Order- The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am.
- II. Recognition of Public: Peder Rude was there just to make sure the Zoom connection worked, then he left. Thank you Peder.
- III. Rules of Procedure
- IV. Additions
- V. Changes to Agenda Order
- VI. Approval of Minutes – The minutes from the December meeting were approved as submitted.
- VII. New Business
 - a. We welcomed Judith to the commission and discussed meeting time. We will continue to meet at 9:30 am on the third Thursday of the month.
- VIII. Old Business
 - a. Eric is still seeking more information about chains for Maplehurst Cemetery. He said that there are different sizes to consider. He will contact Abbiati and/or Charlie Marchant for advice. We need to know how to install the eye bolts, how many posts need repair before that can be done, and how many stones in total. Some of the posts have been epoxied. Although there is a requirement for cemeteries to have fences, it appears that may be changing. Originally the purpose was to protect cemeteries from grazing livestock.
 - b. Eric asked Dick Clark if he might be able to help get the tree down at Wilkins Cemetery, Eric still needs to check with the landowner.
 - c. We discussed the information that we had gleaned from other towns as well as the state for guidelines for cemeteries. Nancy reported that Westminster has two active town cemeteries and that the person in charge is Chris Potter who works at the Fenton Hennessey Funeral Home. Carol passed along the information that she received from Wilmington and Newfane. Verandah sent us the information she got from Londonderry.
 - d. We discussed guidelines for green burials, vaults, and assessing whether graves are sinking. We will look for sinking in the spring.
 - e. We talked about creating a flyer for the public and for funeral homes after we conclude our guidelines. Some questions that we are considering addressing are: what if the gravesite contains ledge? What to do with special requests (gardens, benches, etc.)? How to arrange to purchase a grave? How to arrange for a burial?

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Eric mentioned trying to get school students to do a service project with us and document epitaphs on stones as they are getting harder and harder to read. Nancy will contact someone at the school.

IX. Actions to be Taken- Verandah will contact Charlie Marchant to see if he has a set of guidelines for us to use. If she cannot get that, Nancy will cull the state guidelines to see what we want to incorporate and Carol will look at the other towns and cull from those. Nancy will contact school about community service. Eric will follow up on fencing issues. Judith offered to host next meeting via Zoom.

X. Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY FEBRUARY 17 2022 9:30 AM ZOOM