

Town of Lunenburg



Cemetery Commission
Lance D. May, Chairman
Lorraine Mendoza, Vice- Chairman
William Tyler, Clerk

Minutes June 20, 2018 Lunenburg Public Library Conference Room

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman May. Members present were: Lance D. May, Chairman; Lorraine Mendoza, Vice Chairman; William Tyler, Clerk; Todd Holman, Cemetery Superintendent. Minutes from the May 10, 2018, June 2, 2018 and June 8, 2018 meetings were read, and a motion was made by Comm. Mendoza to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Commissioner Tyler. With no further discussion it was voted unanimously to accept the minutes as written.

Under correspondence, a letter from Nancy Yasko was read, praising Supt. Holman for his work in both Cemeteries. She also proposed that the Town find an appropriate candidate to help the Supt. in his upkeep of both Cemeteries. Considering how the Town is growing it is unreasonable to think that one person can continue to meet the needs of a growing Town with two Cemeteries.

Under Public Comment, DPW Director of Operations Jack Rodriquez, spoke about several issues, the first being Winter operations at the DPW garage and Supt. Holman's involvement. Overtime was also brought up and the need for after hours meetings with families that want to purchase burial lots, and that he encouraged overtime. Lastly, the need for coverage at the landfill off Youngs Rd. was discussed as the Superintendent was scheduled for coverage at the landfill, on the same day as a funeral, Director Rodriquez agreed that burials are a priority.

The 7:15 appointment was with Town Manager Heather Lemieux to discuss technology issues as it pertains to our desire to have our own FaceBook page. She suggested that we share the DPW page, but Commissioner Tyler responded that we would prefer to have our own identity and not share the page. The Town Manager said that she would set up our page as she would be the admin for it. The subject of Town of Lunenburg emails was brought up, and we were told that the Commissioners would have their own email account set up by the IT Director. The Town Manager stated that she would have an update for our next meeting.

After a brief discussion on the demolition of the Cemetery building on Holman St. and the proposed garage to be built on the site by the students from Monty Tech, the Town Manager stated that any Capital Planning submissions would have to be in by November for the annual Town Meeting in May. Commissioner Tyler stated that \$15,000 is still in the Capital plan from 2014 for demolition of the Cemetery building. The Town Manager stated that we would have to request that this be used for this purpose.

The topic of usage of the DPW backhoe was discussed and the need for it to be available for burials. Commissioner Tyler pointed out that since the backhoe was not

available for a number of burials this year, the Superintendent was required to hire a back-up from M&M Services, which Commissioner Tyler didn't feel we should have to pay for, since the usage is not in our control. Chairman May pointed out that it was his belief that the current arrangement between the Highway Dept. and the Cemetery Commission to use the back hoe is and will continue to be a "Inherent Conflict", with Director Rodriquez agreeing that it is an inherent conflict. The subject will be discussed at a future meeting.

The Commission discussed the possibility of a grant to fund the proposed handicap access ramp and railing area at the North Cemetery Columbarium. The Town Manager stated that since the Town has not filed a self-assessment transition plan with the State, a grant of this nature would not be possible at this time.

Commissioner Tyler brought up the subject of safety as it applies to the burial process, regarding excavation and backfilling of graves. When graves are excavated, there are always 2 people on site, because of the need to get in the grave opening to finish the hand work that is needed to be done. It has come to our attention that this help is not available for the back-filling portion of the burial. DPW Director of Operations Rodriquez stated that since the burial vault is in the grave the depth of the operation is not a safety issue. He referred to OSHA regulations and didn't feel that one person completing a grave backfill was in any danger per the regulations. Commissioner Tyler disagreed and also stated concern for headstone monuments being possibly damaged, because no one was present to guide the backhoe to where it needs to be, and ultimately the Commission would be responsible for the damage.

Review of the bills that need to be paid to finish off FY 2018 was discussed, and motions were made by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Comm. Tyler, to pay the following bills: Central Flag for flags and flag holders for Memorial Day; Powell Stone and Gravel for loam; Casella Waste Systems for dumpster at North Cemetery and Maki Home Center for lift rental and supplies for flag pole in North Cemetery. Motion was seconded by Chairman May and with no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Holman briefed the Commission on the current Eagle Scout project that is ongoing at North Cemetery, Eagle Scout candidate Caleb Rawlinson is directing several troop members along with himself in straightening 18th century headstones that have leaned over the years. Supt. Holman also wanted to make note of trim that was installed by Jim Lavassuer on the mausoleum. Also, Dave Passios on his work on the well pumps. Lastly, the help the prisoners from the Worcester County Sheriff's provided at the Cemeteries this Spring.

Finally, after some discussion it was motioned by Commissioner Tyler to have Chairman May formalize a letter to the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission requesting assistance in determining the impact of growth in Lunenburg. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Mendoza, with no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

With no further business before the Commission, a motion was made to adjourn by Chairman May, seconded by Commissioner Tyler, with no further discussion, meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted
William Tyler, Clerk