

Hollis Cemetery Trustees

Meeting Minutes, February 25, 2017
Meeting held at Town Hall Community Room

Trustees in attendance: Marc Squires, Raul Blanche, Melinda Willis, and Amy Armstrong. Mrs. Sharon M. Howe was in attendance to discuss a request for burial related to a family member. Melinda called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30 AM.

- 1) Broken Stone at East Cemetery – The “Lovejoy” monument was damaged/dislodged from its base and will need repairing. It is located near the Hearse house. Raul took an action to have Medlyn Monuments repair the monument sometime during the Spring time frame.
- 2) Discuss future burials for the Howe lot(s) at Pine Hill Cemetery – The primary purpose for discussion of this topic was a recent request by Mr. Dennis Christianson to permit burial of the cremation remains of Deborah Howe Christianson, in what is known as Howe Family Lot 1-B, where her parents, Reverend John Howe and his wife Phyllis are buried. For background reference, some discrepancy has existed on this topic over the years due to lack of consistency in records kept by the family and the town. A Cemetery Trustees letter to Mrs. Howe, dated August 27 2012, documented that three final burials would be allowed in the Howe lots (specifically for Stephen Lull Howe, Sharon M Howe, and Laurie Harris III) and after that the cemetery would be closed forever. This current request by Mr. Christianson (and Mrs. Howe) would breach the decision from the August 2012 letter. It should also be noted that over the years the Howe family and the Cemetery Trustees have held discussions on topics dealing with proof of ownership of the lots and burial capacity within the lots. Much discussion with Mrs. Howe focused on the accuracy and perhaps significant discrepancies between the Howe family’s records and the town’s records. As a result, the Trustees made two motions:
 - a. Melinda proposed a motion seconded by Amy for the Trustees to subcontract to an independent investigator to review all available documentation from the Howe family, the town of Hollis and any other relevant exhibits, and determine accuracy of facts. In turn, this would allow for drawing of an official map for future record, a documented timeline (the history of the Howe family dates back to the early to mid-1800’s), and an accurate determination of lot ownership. The motion passed on a 4-0 vote.
 - b. Regarding the request for burial of cremation remains, Melinda made a motion, seconded by Raul, to approve the request by Dennis Christianson to bury the remains of Deborah Howe Christianson on lot 30-1-B with her parents, Reverend John Howe and his wife Phyllis,

pending determination of lot ownership. The motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

- 3) Discuss Potential Landscapers – The Trustees were recently notified by Eric Willette, owner of Preferred Landscape Services, LLC, and current landscaper, that Preferred will not be continuing the current cemetery maintenance agreement for 2017. As a result, the Trustees are looking for a replacement contractor. Melinda will be reviewing and updating the bid sheet with current year requirements while Marc will lead the solicitation of bids from landscaping contractors.

Other topics in the agenda were tabled for discussion at a subsequent meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 1 April, 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am on a unanimous 4-0 vote, based on a motion by Amy seconded by Marc.

Respectfully submitted,

Raul Blanche