

Hollis Cemetery Trustees

Meeting Minutes, January 15, 2022 Meeting held virtually starting at 7:30 a.m.

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Trustees in attendance: Melinda Willis, Marc Squires, Lisa Schmalz, Amy Armstrong and Raul Blanche. Selectman Susan Benz also attended.

- 1) **East Cemetery expansion** – Great work was done during 2021 to prepare the new area for lot sales and new internments. However, a few items still need to be addressed. In order to enable DPW traffic near the patio area, the 8 lots closest to the patio will need to be relocated. A minimum width of 20 feet is required on the streets to enable DPW trucks to drive through. In the patio area, a new stone will be added to commemorate the accomplishment of the expansion. In addition, granite benches for seating of up to 4-6 people may be added to the patio, budget permitting, to allow times for remembrance and recollection. At this point the only remaining action under phase 1 of the cemetery expansion is the seeding of grass. Currently all areas adjacent to the patio are designated as grass. In addition, the Avenue B roadway will also be grass. However, Avenue C and Apple Lane will be gravel. Once this is done, then section markers will be added per request of DPW. The current numbering system of streets and lot areas may need to change to a different scheme to eliminate possible confusion.
- 2) **Rule violations regarding lot decorations** - Lisa accepted an action to draft a letter that will remind lot owners that mementos and tributes are not permitted in existing lots. Only natural flowers, small plants, and American and U.S. service flags are permitted.
- 3) **New guidance regarding allowable size of monuments per single, and multiple lot(s)** – Melinda took an action to create a draft addendum to the existing cemetery rules that will define the size of monuments allowed on lots.
- 4) **Proposal for a potential burial area at East designated only for veterans** – It has been proposed that an area around the location of the existing U.S. flagpole at East cemetery be considered and reserved for burials of only U.S. veterans. The Trustees briefly discussed this topic and decided to postpone further discussion to a future meeting.
- 5) **Granite posts and fencing around perimeter of cemeteries needing repair** – As a new project, Marc introduced this topic, that the Trustees investigate the cost and level of effort to straighten and/or repair the granite and steel chain fencing that exists in the perimeter of some of the cemeteries to include East and South.
- 6) **Monument maintenance and repairs** – After some discussion, Melinda took an action to speak with Bev about contacting and obtaining rates and background

information on several companies in the area that are in the cemetery maintenance and repair business.

- 7) Request to reopen sections of closed cemeteries to sell lots** – The Trustees received an inquiry regarding reopening closed cemeteries for purposes of selling lots. Unanimously the Trustees are opposed to such an action, and it will not be discussed further.
- 8) Request to change rule that defines minimum length of time required to be a Hollis NH resident to qualify for purchasing burial rights-to-inter** – During 2021 a cemetery rule was created to establish a minimum amount of time a new resident is required to live in Hollis before he/she can purchase a right-to-inter lot. That period is five years. There has been a recent request to relax the rule for people who are over 65 years of age. The Trustees discussed possible situations pro and con and decided to leave as is the current rule.
- 9) Meeting Minutes (MM) approval** – The Trustees approved the previous minutes for the October 2021 meeting. Raul made a motion to accept the minutes as written and Marc seconded. The motion passed in the affirmative on a 5-0 vote.
- 10) Future Trustee meetings** – The next three meetings are scheduled for Saturdays starting with February 19th at 7:30 a.m. to be held virtually; March 26th at East, weather permitting, or virtually starting at 7:30 a.m.; and May 7th at East starting at 7:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m. on a 5-0 vote in the affirmative, based on a motion by Marc seconded by Amy.

Respectfully submitted,

Raul Blanche