

Hollis Cemetery Trustees
Meeting Minutes, September 6, 2022
FINAL
Meeting held at Hollis Town Hall starting at 5:34 p.m.

Trustees in attendance: Melinda Willis, Marc Squires, Lisa Schmalz, Amy Armstrong and Raul Blanche.

- 1) Decision to be made with the tree encroaching on Litchfield lot** – Both parties attended the meeting to discuss the request to remove the existing tree and replace it with another tree or bush that will minimize the likelihood of future encroachment. Currently there is an Oak tree that was previously allowed by former trustees based on a then approved list of tree planting options. Mr. and Mrs. Litchfield were concerned that in future years, the Oak tree roots will be too deep and will encroach on their lot. Mr. Rush who also attended the meeting had no issue with the request and agreed to remove the existing Oak and replace it with a choice tree agreeable to both parties.
- 2) Discuss letter from Hazel Brown requesting an exception to 5-year residency on Right to Inter (RTI) purchases** – Mr. and Mrs. Brown attended this meeting as well. Mrs. Brown expressed the reasons for her request, primarily their advanced age, both over 80. They plan on purchasing two RTIs but have not yet decided at which cemetery. Based on discussion among the trustees, it was decided to modify the rule to allow purchases after three, rather than five years of town residency if the purchasers are over 80 years of age. As a result, Marc made a motion to modify the existing rule, “...to modify the ability to purchase RTI to add a new level of eligibility so anyone over 80 years of age shall be able to purchase RTIs after three years of residency.” Raul seconded the motion which passed in the affirmative on a 5-0 vote.
- 3) Approve rule violation letter for extensive decorations, and 4) Discuss draft letter for removal of overgrown shrubs/trees on specific lots** – These topics were discussed jointly. Lisa took an action to draft sample letters, one on each topic, to be sent to RTI owners/families associated with lots in violation of cemetery rules on these two topics. In addition, the sample letters will be published as attachments to meeting minutes to amplify information to the public.
- 4) Discuss Green burials and 5) Discuss possible wooded cremation sites for East and North cemeteries** – The trustees discussed “Alternative” burials which really mean vault-less burials that include, hybrid, natural, and conservational types. For example, all-wooden caskets may be allowed under new future rules. Over the coming winter the trustees will investigate future options for Hollis. Amy took an action to contact other towns to find out how they are implementing such burial options. In particular, she plans to contact cemetery staff in Wilton and Jaffrey to start.

- 5) Review East cemetery expansion budget** – Although this topic was not specifically discussed, Melinda took an action to draft a budget that she will present at the next Trustees meeting.
- 6) Discuss broken granite bench at Murphy lot for Flora Anderson (tabled from May 6th meeting)** – It is not clear who and/or how the granite bench was damaged. The bench pedestals are located between 6th and 7th Avenue near the new section at East. The top stone is split in half and currently located at the offices of the Department of Public Works. Raul will contact Medlyn Monument Co. to view the stone and provide a cost estimate to repair the existing engraved stone/bench or replace it.
- 7) Review sold lots in Section J, East cemetery** – A quick review suggests that lots are selling quickly, and many lots have already been sold.
- 8) Tree plantings in new section of East cemetery** – Amy proposed we consider Sugar Maples to create considerable shade when they grow. The plan would be to not sell specific current lots and eventually plant trees in those lots. According to the plan, the following lots would be closed as follows:
- a. Area B: Lots 11, 12, 33, and 34
 - b. Area C: Lots 11, 12, 33, 34
 - c. Area D: Lots 11, 12, 33, 34
 - d. Area E: Lots 11, 12, 33, 34
 - e. Area F: Lots 8, 9, 24, 25
 - f. Area G: Lots 8, 9, 24, 25
 - g. Area H: Lots 8, 9, 24, 25
 - h. Area I: Lots 8, 9, 24, 25

Marc will contact Morin Landscaping to obtain an estimate on potential cost of this plan.

- 9) Meeting Minutes (MM) approval** – On a motion by Lisa that was seconded by Marc, the May meeting minutes were approved unanimously in the affirmative on a 4-0 vote with Raul abstaining.
- 10) Future Trustee meetings** – The next three meetings are planned for Saturday October 1st, Saturday November 5th, and Saturday December 10th, 2022, at starting at 8:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 a.m. on a 5-0 vote in the affirmative, based on a motion by Amy seconded by Marc.

Respectfully submitted,

Raul Blanche

