

Worcester Cemetery Commission Meeting
Tuesday, June 4, 2024, 5:30 pm – Town Office
DRAFT - Minutes

Heather called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

1. Approve May 8, 2024 minutes.

Heather moved to approve the minutes, minus the “green burial” repetition/typo in section 3, at the end of the 1st sentence. Fran seconded, approved unanimously.

2. Review and increase in lot pricing.

We have had several emails discussing current increases in price for granite cornerstones used for our cemeteries. Per the sexton, the price for 4 cornerstones is presently \$250, plus \$60 for installation (\$310 total). Our current fees only allow for \$200 for everything – stones and installation. Joe’s currently charges \$250 for ashes burial, and \$600 for full burial (includes labor).

The current purchase of a single lot (full grave) is \$650. We are currently spending \$310 for cornerstones (purchase, engraving single initial, and installation). This leaves a minimal balance of \$340 for the lot purchase and perpetual upkeep. The commission has not increased rates since 2007 and needs to align with current costs, to cover the prices of inflation for materials, labor and upkeep. We plan to keep interment fees the same for now.

Heather proposed an increase for Worcester residents by \$200, for all full lot and crematory lot prices across the board for each item. Julie seconded, approved unanimously. Julie moved to increase non-resident prices by \$250 each, for full lot and crematory lot prices for each item. Fran seconded, with motion approved. We will also change our brochure wording to say that all lot rates include the purchase and installation of 4 Barre, gray cornerstones with a single initial engraved. The commission will revisit the prices in another year to see if rates have changed and need to adjust accordingly.

3. Green burial progress and pricing.

Still waiting for more fill and maintenance on the green burial site. We will discuss this item at our next meeting, since we will need an update from Joe regarding mapping and rates.

4. Update on flags for graves and removal after Veteran’s Day.

Julie emailed Gillian (Doty Principal) about student participation and is waiting on a response. Per Fran, flags cost \$1.35/each, approximately 140 are used per year, for a total cost of \$189. We will discuss a possible donation to the America Legion for offsetting their costs to pay for the flags at our next meeting.

5. Other business.

In the past, for previous gravesite purchases, the cost of the cornerstones weren’t included and people had to buy their own cornerstones and have them installed at the cost of the customer. There are people that currently have a lot as mentioned above, but do not have cornerstones installed. To have stones put in, they have a few options: 1) pay the cemetery commission \$310 - so we can call the sexton to purchase and install the cornerstones; or 2) purchase and install the cornerstones at their own cost.

6. Next meeting. – Will email to discuss next meeting date/time.

Heather moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 pm, Fran seconded.

Attest – Julie Shedd / Respectfully submitted by Heather Pagel

DRAFT