



CITY OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF OPEN SPACE
Cemetery – Shade Tree – Open Space

57 ORNE STREET
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS 01970

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
MAYOR

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RON MALIONEK
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE

CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 9, 2016

A meeting of the Cemetery Commission was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at 120 Washington Street. Members present were: Ruth Kapnis, Joanne Mizioch, Anthony O'Donnell; Ron Malione, Assistant Director of Public Services. Christine Lutts from Friends of Greenlawn and Dog Officer Donald Famico were also in attendance. Absent was board member Patricia Donahue.

Motion was made by Joanne Mizioch and seconded by Ruth Kapnis to accept minutes of Secretary's Report as read.

OLD BUSINESS
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Money that was appropriated for tree removal from the last meeting was used for eight large unsafe specimen trees at Greenlawn Cemetery. It was necessary to hire a crew with a crane to get around the headstones. Six more trees need to be taken down.
- Due to lack of snow, we are ahead with cleanups and able to get about 800 grave markers in the Burke Lot, Veterans' Section and two small lots that we opened up by clearing shrubs in different sections.
- Patrick Cheney, who did tree work at Broad Street Cemetery, has begun clearing of dead wood and specimen tree removal at Howard Street Cemetery to keep area opened up and pruned nicely.
- Pat Patrick from Marblehead is making progress showing us pictures of the rebuild of the windows on the Orne Street side of the Chapel. Construction is ready to begin of chapel windows over the refurbished doors. Christine Lutts, Pat Donahue and Ron are working with Erin Schaffer and Lynn Duncan from Planning to increase the grant structure for the chapel to be able to go forward with repairs, restoration and renovations.
- Pat Dooling from Boscan, is updating the cemetery records and reported that "we are almost there" transferring archaic records into a usable data base for public use.

Vote was unanimous to accept Superintendent's Report.

NEW BUSINESS



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Vote on Dog issue in Broad St., Charter Street., Essex St., and Howard St. Cemeteries – Do we want to keep the signage as it reads “No Dogs Allowed” or do we want to go before the City Council to get a city ordinance passed to add an enforceable “Police Take Notice”. For many years rules and regulations have stated that no dogs are allowed in any cemetery except for Greenlawn because there are paved paths. Satellite cemeteries have become dog parks. Before a vote was taken Officer Donald Famico said that he and the police would go along with whatever the board voted and it would make his job a lot easier if an ordinance was in place. Don noted it is still a concern whether if cemeteries are not “used” will vandals take over. There was some discussion on possibility of lights attached to Council on Aging roof to help with safety issues. He also said that having an enforceable sign would not deter from police work in other areas because they prioritize situations as they come up. Anthony O'Donnell proposed a motion for a vote to go forward for a city ordinance to not allow dogs in any cemetery except for Greenlawn. Vote was unanimous in favor of the proposal. Ron will follow through with what he needs to do procedurally in relation to this motion.

Vote on releasing funds for: Tree takedowns in Greenlawn Cemetery and Replacement of specimen trees in Greenlawn Cemetery – Ron MalioneK asked the board for more money to take down the 6 remaining dangerous trees. This would entail a days work with the crane to be done this winter. Cost would be \$5,000.00. Motion was made and seconded to grant request of \$5,000.00 from the Meldon Fund for this purpose. Ron also requested another \$5000.00 to replace 6 specimen trees. After discussion, motion was made and seconded to grant request of \$5000.00 from the Meldon Fund for tree replacement. Vote was unanimous in favor of both requests.

Purchase of Message Board – Ron requested a **Free standing** glass enclosed Message board to be purchased to put in front of office to left side of door with units underneath to put information. Map of Greenlawn Cemetery would be on message board. Christine Lutts suggested John Pelletier would be instrumental in helping with this, keeping it simple and user friendly. Cost would be between \$1,500 and \$2,000. Ron will present the final package at the next meeting. Motion was made and seconded to allocate funds with a \$2,000. cap for the purchase of a large message board for Greenlawn Cemetery. Vote was unanimous in favor of motion.

Vote on a new chairperson - Because members were absent, it was agreed to vote on this issue at the next meeting on April 12.
Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Ruth Kapnis, secretary

Know your rights under the Open Meeting Law M.G.L.c.30A and City Ordinance Sections 2-2028 and through 2-2033.