

**CEMETERY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

January 8, 2019

5:30 PM

Conference Room C

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** William Graham  
Gail Forsberg

**ALSO PRESENT:** Scott Charpentier, DPW Director  
Donald LeBlanc  
Robert Luke

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 25, 2018 MEETING**

Commissioner Graham moved to approve the minutes from September 25, 2018; Commissioner Forsberg seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

**2. UPDATE ON NHDC CPA FUNDING REQUEST FOR INTERPRETIVE SIGNS**

Mr. Charpentier gave a brief update to the Commissioners regarding the project. The Northborough Historic District Commission requested funding for interpretive signs from the CPC. Mr. Charpentier noted that he will discuss oversight of the signs with their representative Mr. Corbin once they are approved at Town Meeting.

**3. UPDATE ON THE HOWARD STREET CEMETERY RESTORATION & RESETTING PROJECT**

Mr. Charpentier explained the current status of the project, indicating that work had finished for the winter season and anything left would be finished in the spring. He noted that work is substantially complete at this point and that 13 additional stones were restored with the additional funds that were received.

**4. POSSIBILITY OF INCLUDING HOWARD STREET INTO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Mr. Charpentier noted that he was approached by Mr. Cobrin about the possibility of incorporating the Howard Street Cemetery into the Local Historic District. This would allow for additional funding for cemetery stone restoration in the future. Mr. Charpentier explained that he wanted more time to vet the idea before Town Meeting and that next year would make more sense. Commissioner Graham asked Mr. Charpentier what was involved in the vetting process. Mr. Charpentier explained that this could impact future Niche improvements and also could impact any active burials. He also would like time to

evaluate additional stones that need restoration. Mr. Charpentier noted that if finalized, the Historic District Commission would have future approval over all head stones in the expanded Historic District.

## **5. OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Graham commented that he went to Shrewsbury to view the Niche at Mountainview Cemetery. He noted that it was interesting but he wasn't sure how heavily it was being used. Commissioner Graham also commented about Northborough having fewer burials than Shrewsbury which could also impact the usability of a future Niche here in the Town. He also distributed an article from the Boston Globe that discusses the increase in cremation burials versus full earth burials. Mr. Leblanc noted that when he went to Mountainview Cemetery, he was told that the Niche was selling extremely well. He said that he would follow-up again to be sure that his recollection was correct.

Mr. Charpentier also explained the new process for meeting minutes; they will be sent to each Commissioner, individually, shortly after each Commission meeting with an opportunity for them to comment. Those comments will then be integrated into the draft minutes and sent to the Town Clerk for any public record request. Formal approval of the draft minutes will then take place at the next Commission meeting.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

Mr. Charpentier then suggested our next Commission meeting take place before Town Meeting; no tentative date was set forth.

### **ADJOURN:**

At 6:10 pm, Commissioner Graham moved to adjourn; Commissioner Forsberg seconded the motion; The vote was unanimous in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Luke  
Administrative Assistant

### Documents used during meeting:

1. January 8, 2019 Agenda
2. September 25, 2018 Meeting Minutes
3. Boston Globe article presented by Commissioner Graham