

Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2025 – 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

In attendance

Faye Kolhonen – Commissioner/Chairperson

Marty Goldsworthy - Commissioner

Celeste Sullivan – Commissioner /Clerk

Conor Morgan – Superintendent

Commission

The Commissioners and Superintendent introduced themselves as this was the first meeting of the newly appointed members. A motion to elect Faye Kolhonen as the Chairperson was made and seconded by Marty Goldsworthy. A motion to elect Celeste Sullivan as the clerk was made and seconded by Marty Goldsworthy.

Budget

The capital budget was reviewed. A capital budget was submitted by Taylor MacCallum on March 2024 for the 2024/2025 fiscal year in the amount of \$111,350. There were carryover funds from the previous fiscal year (2023/2024) in the amount of \$94,650. To date there have been expenditures in the amount of \$70,000. As of today's date, the remaining capital budget is \$136,000 per Christine Turner's data (Cemetery Clerk).

New Business

1. **Oak Grove Expansion** – 65 new graves have been made available for sale. The markers have been placed and plans for planting trees in the new section were reviewed.
2. **Cedar Grove Cemetery Expansion (section K)** – Conor has done extensive research as well as completing the pilot hole and trenching to establish the levels of bedrock, ledge and boulders in the section which would hinder development. At this time Conor would like to have a Geo Physical Survey as well as a Seismic Survey done to maximize the plot yield. The Commission voted unanimously to move forward with his request to allocate \$8000 for the surveys.
3. **Statues/Monuments** – The Commission reviewed with the Superintendent that statues and monuments are not allowed in the cemetery, no exceptions. The Vargas family has broken the rules and the monument of the son's likeness has been placed. No plans or drawings were submitted to the last Commission for written approval and this statue we were told the previous Superintendent approved it on his own sight unseen. The Commission ensured that Mr. Morgan understood that no other statues will be allowed. He was instructed to review this at the time of the sale of the plot with the potential customer.
4. **Pricing** – The commission reviewed the current pricing list. Conor inquired about charging a \$30 fee for Veterans markers which was unanimously denied. Marty wanted a definition of the "Winter Conditions" fee. The time frame of December 1st to April 1st listed in the pricing provided is not consistent with the seasonal conditions were have been experiencing in the past few years. Conor

stated that fee will only apply if the current conditions **at the time of service** require the additional work due to frozen ground conditions. No changes were made to the current pricing list.

5. **Tree removal and planting** – Conor informed the commission that six (6) trees had been removed as they were a danger to the public. Total cost for removal was \$6200. Conor stated there are several trees in need of trimming and he will get pricing for that once he has done a full evaluation. Marty asked why the City Forestry Department could not be consulted and potentially do some of the tree work. Faye and Conor stated the Forestry Department is too busy to assist us in this effort and the work would have to be done by a subcontractor. Conor was asked about the stump grinder they have so he could remove the stumps himself. He stated there is a grinder but it needs repair. He will have to have get pricing to get it repaired. Discussion took place about planting trees. Conor expressed he would like a separate tree budget specifically for tree removal, maintenance and replacement. He was advised he needed to inquire about this with Mayor Bettencourt.
6. **Leaning / Falling Stones** – There is 1 stone in Cedar Grove that has fallen off of its foundation. There are additional stones that are leaning but they are very old stones (not on foundations). Faye informed the group that there is a stone down at Oak Grove and provided the location to Connor. There was discussion about issues at Monumental including the tents the homeless set up. Conor stated they would be able to shim the newer stones that were leaning but may need the Historical Society to evaluate the older stones and recommend repairs. Conor will do an evaluation to obtain a count.

Agenda for next meeting

The following agenda items have been moved to the next meeting due to time constraints:

- Repair of Chapel
- Office Hours
- Front Lobby
- Columbarium
- Updating of the City of Peabody Cemetery Handbook
- 20” Water Main that runs through Cedar Grove.

Other items may be added to the formal agenda by close of business February 24th, 2025.

Next Meeting –

Our next meeting will be on March 5th, 2025 at 11:30 AM at 100 Cedar Grove Avenue, Peabody , MA.