

Minutes of Cemetery Commission meeting June 3, 2025

Meeting called to order 7:08 pm

Present: Peter Freisem (Chair), Jack Harrison, Steve Jackson

New Business

Minutes of APRIL 8, 2025 meeting were approved.

PF reported that Commission member, Steve Jackson's 2 year term was coming to an end but that he would renew.

Ongoing Business

CEMETERY DEED & REGULATION REVISIONS: JH reported that after town lawyer's (McNichol) review of our Deeds and Regulations she recommend we make sure that we are abiding by any State or Local Board of Health requirements. JH researched State Board of Health requirements, especially as regards green burials. JH reported the following:

- Towns are required to provide a place of burial for town residents
- BOH requirements for existing cemeteries started before 1908 are somewhat less stringent than for newly established cemeteries.
- State advice for local boards of health (for pre-1908 cemeteries) recommends a 100 foot setback of burials from wells, water sources, etc. Larger setback requirements, such as 350 or even 750 feet are only recommended by MA DEP for new cemeteries.

JH conclusions were that it would be prudent to have formal communication and/or a meeting with our local Board of Health in which we present our plans for allowing green burials and show that we will abide by state requirements for setbacks. JH's feeling was that it was important to have local Board of Health be on board for our future burial plans.

JH noted that Boards of Health in general have concerns about burials of individuals who died of a Prion related disease or of a communicable epidemic disease (such as Ebola) but that was extremely rare and we could make some stipulations about that in our Cemetery Regulations.

SJ noted that he has done a quick web look at the abutters to South Part Cemetery and that those residential wells were more than likely at least 200 feet away from the cemetery.

JH said he would research what State BOH says about Green Burials and setbacks from wells and depth requirements. JH said he could locate no specific state requirements but Green Burial organizations recommend no deeper than 4 feet. Some recommend no shallower than 3 feet.

CEMETERY MAPPING: PF reported that he had not yet heard back from Lee Whitcomb, or from company that licenses it about the ESRI software license. SJ re-emphasized how useful it would

be for us to be able to use ARC GIS through the town license. SJ reported that his personal GPS device that he has been using to help town mapping is currently non functional so he cannot at present do any GPS location.

MARCIA LEWIS BURIAL LOT: Lot coordinates were given to JH so he could finish the deed of record for Marcia Lewis lot purchase. JH said he would make up the deed before next meeting.

LOT MARKERS: PF reported 48 burial lot markers have been purchased and received.

Next Commission meeting was agreed for Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 7pm
Members voted to adjourn meeting at 7:47 pm.