

MINUTES  
CEMETERY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY APRIL 25, 2018

The Cemetery Board of Trustees held its meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in the Park Department Office, 45 Meadow Lane, Brockton, MA. There being a proper quorum, the meeting was called to order by Mayor Bill Carpenter with Acting Superintendent Timothy Carpenter, Mr. Frank Gurley, Mr. Daniel DePina, Mr. Adius Pierre, Ms. Cindy Ethier-Kostka and Loreen Hardiman, Senior clerk present.

Also present at the meeting was Chris Kostka.

***Motion was made Mayor Bill Carpenter and seconded by Mr. Gurley to accept the minutes of the August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting as written. Motion carried.***

New Business Report by Superintendent Tim Carpenter: discussed our pricing compared to surrounding cemetery pricing. We are the least expensive in the city. Pine Hill is more money and does double down and offers 3 different kind of liners. Tim suggests that we branch out and try offering another liner option. The option would be Silver with a plague and emblem. (no gasket)

Also, staffing issues came up again. There is still just 3 men at the garage. We are unable to take on any more days with only 3 men. We will discuss in the future the Sunday funeral issue. Tim would like to increase some of our pricing for July 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 to bring in some more revenue. Price increases would be with the liners, winter charges, and cremation opening fees.

**A motion was made by Frank Gurley to increase the cremation opening from \$300 weekly/\$600 Saturdays to \$400/\$700 seconded by Cindy Kostka, all in favor , approved unanimously 4-0.**

**A motion was made by Frank Gurley to increase the liner fees from \$475.00 to \$575.00 for basic cement, and to offer an additional option of Silver with plague and emblem for \$700.00 seconded by Cindy Kostka, all in favor, approved unanimously 4-0.**

**A motion was made by Frank Gurley to increase the winter fee from \$125 weekly to \$250.00 and \$175 Saturdays to \$350.00 seconded by Daniel DePina, all in favor, approved unanimously 4-0 ALL EFFECTIVE JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2018.**

The conditions over the winter and early spring were challenging. The cold, snow and ground water were all factors. The ground water had been causing graves to collapse so we could only dig the graves hours before the funeral. Because of these conditions we were down to only 1 funeral per day for everyone's safety. Lots of tree damage in all the cemeteries. We are still cleaning up trees and having DPW help us with that. Union Cemetery had some vandalism. Windows were broken and the building department sealed them up for us. Leach cemetery had an automobile hit the wall and fence causing damage. Their insurance company will be taking care of it but it will take a while to get fixed. Adornments on grave are still an issue. We are reaching out by letter and phone calls to give them 2 weeks to clean up there area.

Superintendent Report: 285 burials in 2017, 87 so far in 2018. Sale of lots and graves \$295K, Coweaset perpetual care \$5400.00, Union Perpetual care \$9K, Melrose Perpetual Care \$84K.

4 areas of possible expansion: behind garage out to Pearl street, next to Veterans North to expand the veterans section, North mulberry, and a smaller lot for cremations only. Engineers have been surveying, wet land flagging, bid preparation. They are also working on mapping so we can have it online with actual lot numbers on the map and link it to our database. There have been 35K records in the database to date.

We have 3 Veterans that have started working with us for the spring, summer and into the fall. They will be mowing and trimming. BAARC was doing 4 of the outside cemeteries (Leach, Snell, Thompson, Thayer) but they are no longer able to maintain them for us so we hired Sullivan & Design Landscape and they will be getting them ready for Memorial Day.

We now have 2 new dump trucks, one new pickup truck. Backhoe is getting old so we would like to purchase a mini excavator (with the jackhammer attachment) this machine would be able to fit between the headstones where the backhoe cannot.

The push is on for Memorial Day, so we will have the Park Department and DPW help us with getting the cemeteries ready.

Report by Cindy Ethier-Kostka: Union Cemetery is in bad condition. Cindy provided pictures for all of the Board. Would like to find money to clean it up, fix headstones, fence and entrance ways. Possibly power wash entrance, cut down dead trees, fix steps, stones and walls. WB MASON has a family plot in Union, try reaching out to WBMASON to help with funding for their lot. Mayor Bill Carpenter will be looking into possible grants to help with the repairs. Research should be done on the historical monuments and veterans. Chris Kostka will help us identify the veteran's graves and help with raising money if needed. Tim Carpenter will ask DPW Forestry to help with the trees. Mayor Bill to talk to WBMASON regarding there lot and look into grants. The Keith lot is the Walkover Shoe which is still in business in Connecticut. Dave Farrell can also help with identifying Veterans graves.

**Having no further business, a motion was made by Frank Gurley and seconded by Cindy Ethier-Kostka to adjourn the meeting at 7:50. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Carpenter  
Acting Superintendent of Cemeteries