

PEMBROKE CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING

June 10, 2021

Minutes

Present: Dan Chase, James Garvin, Ellen Paulsen (chair), Zachary Sawyer, Fleda Young, Adam Mendoza.

1. Chair Ellen Paulsen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Pembroke Public Works garage.
2. On a motion by Dan Chase, seconded by Fleda Young, the minutes of the meeting of May 13, 2021, were unanimously approved.

New business:

3. Commission members reviewed requests for the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for 2022, to discuss possible additions to the list. Our requests, with estimated cost figures, should be submitted to town administrator David Jodoin no later than July 16th.

It was suggested that we remove the project of paving the driveway at Pembroke Hill Cemetery from the 2022 requests and return it to the Six-Year Plan. This would give us time to meet with Mr. And Mrs. Wylie, the abutters at 490 Fourth Range Road, to discuss options with the white pine trees that are damaging the paved driveway, and also to consider rebuilding the driveway with rolled crushed stone rather than with asphalt-bound macadam as at present. Adam Mendoza suggested that if the Wylies should grant permission to remove the trees in the future, we could pave with asphalt-bound macadam. If they do not give permission, we could consider using rolled crushed stone.

Other possible projects include:

- Loaming and seeding Pembroke Street Cemetery after roots are removed and loaming and seeding Buck Street Cemetery in areas of dead grass, as needed.
- Jim Garvin questioned whether tree work at New North Pembroke Cemetery could be paid for from 2021 CIP funds. He also mentioned that two of the three remaining maples at this cemetery appear healthy, although they have some dead branches that should be pruned.
- Surveying the back of Buck Street Cemetery with ground-penetrating radar. Jim Garvin will look into estimated costs for doing this based on prior GPR work in our cemeteries by Robert W. Perry (Topographix LLC) of Hudson NH.

4. The Commission discussed the need to order new flags for veterans' graves. We presently have only six dozen (half a gross or 72) new flags in reserve. We have only three new cast metal veterans' flag holders.

Chair Ellen Paulsen suggested that we count the total numbers of flags needed for each cemetery and post the numbers on a whiteboard in the Hearse House. She also suggested that we might make cloth bags to hold the necessary flags for each cemetery, thereby segregating the needed flags and making it more obvious when we are running low.

Regarding the need to order new flags this year for use in 2022, Jim Garvin reported that the Cemetery Commission had always found the best available prices on flags and flag holders to be from Jerry's Flag Shop in Providence, RI. Our last flag order was from Jerry's Flag Shop in 2016 was 576 (4 gross) of flags. He offered to request a current catalogue or price list from that store so that we can compare their prices with those of local suppliers.

5. Zachary Sawyer reported that a number of small stones in Pembroke Street Cemetery have tipped over, probably from frost action over time. He also mentioned some tree branches overhanging the cemetery wall adjacent to Whittemore land. Adam Mendozza reported that Public Works crews may have cut these branches after Zachary noticed them during regular spring maintenance of the cemetery.
6. Adam reported on a few items for V. J. Ranfos:

V. J. has talked with Don Cotnoir of New Hampshire Monuments regarding repair of some damaged stones.

Public works spread lime at the back of Buck Street Cemetery to reduce acidic soils, discourage the growth of lichens, and encourage the growth of grass.

7. The Commission reviewed Jim Garvin's letter to the Board of Selectmen regarding cemetery burial fees. This subject has not yet been discussed at a meeting of the Board of Selectmen.
8. Jim Garvin reported that Mr. Gary Foster has cut down all trees and shrubs in the Old French Cemetery off Borough Road. He suggested that the Commission send a letter of thanks to Mr. Foster. The meeting agreed.
9. The next regular meeting of the Pembroke Cemetery Commission will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 8, 2021, at the Public Works headquarters at 8 Exchange Street in Suncook Village.
10. There being no other business to be brought before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m. on a motion of Jim Garvin, seconded by Fleda Young.

Respectfully submitted,
James L. Garvin, Secretary