

PEMBROKE CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING

May 11, 2022

Minutes

Present: Ellen Paulsen (chair), James Garvin, Adam Mendoza

1. Chair Ellen Paulsen called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.
2. The minutes of the meeting of April 14, 2022 were approved.

New business:

3. In response to an inquiry by Charles Albee of Pembroke regarding the maximum number of cremations that can be interred in a single burial lot, the Commission reviewed Section 155-15 (“Multiple Burials”) in Chapter 155 (“Cemeteries”) of the Pembroke Town Code. Section 155-15 states that up to six cremation burials may be interred in a standard one-person lot, either as cremation burials only or placed above an existing vault for a previous full burial in that lot. Secretary James Garvin will write to Mr. Albee to provide him with this information.

Old business:

4. The Commission reviewed the fact that Public Works Director V. J. Ranfos had officially referred the question of pre-payment for burials to the Board of Selectmen. Given the consistently rising charges made to the town by the town’s contractor for burials, the selectmen had concluded that the town cannot accept prepayment for burials. A prepayment made by a Pembroke resident was therefore refunded by the town.
5. Chair Ellen Paulsen reiterated that flags for veterans’ graves should be placed prior to Memorial Day. May 30, 2022. The flags are to be removed after Veterans’ Day, November 11, 2022. Commission members should review how well the system of storing flags for the winter in pails in the Hearse House is working.
6. The Board of Selectmen responded to the letter from the Commission regarding an increase in charges by Dignified Cemetery Services, the town’s contractor for burials, by voting on April 20, 2022 to raise the town’s burial fees to match those charged to the town by the contractor.
7. Chair Ellen Paulsen reviewed a list of monuments to be repaired, submitted by Don Cotnoir of New Hampshire Monuments: seven stones in Pembroke Street Cemetery; two in Old North Pembroke Cemetery; and one in New North Pembroke Cemetery. Adam Mendoza reported that he had no information that any of these stones had yet been conserved.
8. Adam Mendoza reported that the granite bench on the Booth lot in Evergreen Cemetery (Item 9 in minutes of meeting of April 14, 2022) has been moved by Perry Brothers

Monument Company so that it does not overhang the lot line of the adjacent Symanski lot.

Chair Ellen Paulsen suggested that Secretary James Garvin draft a notice to be issued with future Pembroke burial licenses, restricting the length of cemetery benches to three feet in length and one foot (12 inches) in depth.

9. Adam Mendoza reported that the Public Works crew had spread lime on the newly laid-out section of Evergreen Cemetery, the back section of Buck Street Cemetery, and Pembroke Hill Cemetery in an effort to encourage better growth of grass.
10. The next meeting of the Pembroke Cemetery Commission will be at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 9th at the Pembroke Public Works office.
11. The meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James L. Garvin, Secretary