

PEMBROKE CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING

September 8, 2022

Minutes

Present: James Garvin, V. J. Ranfos, Zachary Sawyer, Fleda Young

1. The meeting convened at 6:02 p.m.
2. The minutes of the meeting of August 11 were approved.

New business:

3. The meeting discussed an offer by Commission member Dan Chase to purchase and donate a solar-powered light for a sample installation at one of the three flagpoles in the public cemeteries. Because Mr. Chase was not in attendance, the Commission accepted the generous offer with thanks and agreed that the trial light should be a ground-based light rather than one mounted on the top of the flagpole and that it should be a model that will not interfere with mowing in the vicinity of the pole. Commission members also suggested that the trial light might best be installed at the flagpole in Pembroke Street Cemetery, which is the most visible to passing motorists and nearby residents. Secretary James Garvin will contact Mr. Chase with these suggestions.

Old business:

4. Public Works Director V. J. Ranfos informed the Commission that the Public Works Department had refunded the purchase price for Lots 49 a. and b. in Pembroke Hill Cemetery at the request of Nina R. Bonney and that the town now holds title to these lots for future re-sale. All sales of burial licenses and re-purchases of cemetery lots are handled by the Public Works Department.
5. Secretary Jim Garvin gave an update on the proposal by a scout troop to place and remove flags in Pembroke cemeteries. He reported that he had spoken to Catrina Rantala on August 12th and had sent Ms. Rantala the attached memo describing the scope of flag management in the public cemeteries. He had followed this discussion with an email message of August 15th, providing the number of flags in each cemetery. He received a reply from Ms. Rantala on August 18th stating that the cub scout leaders had begun to discuss the idea of local scouts managing the veterans' flags but had not had time to discuss the number of cemeteries that scouts could help with. There has been no further contact since August 18th.

Fleda Young observed that the difficulty of removing flags from their holders in the fall due to swelling from summer moisture might be a problem for cub scouts.

6. V. J. Ranfos reported that the large American flag in Evergreen Cemetery remains in good condition and does not yet need to be replaced.
7. V. J. reported that Adam Mendoza had contacted an arborist about removal of the dead tamarack tree in Buck Street Cemetery. No further details are yet available.
8. V. J. reported that Public Works crews have cut tree sprouts at the back of Evergreen Cemetery both around existing headstones and in a general area where lots have been sold. Public Works will maintain this area in the future.
9. The next meeting of the Pembroke Cemetery Commission will be at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 13, 2022, at the Public Works headquarters on Exchange Street in Suncook Village.
10. On a motion by Fleda Young, seconded by Zachary Sawyer, the meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James L. Garvin, Secretary



TOWN OF PEMBROKE

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12 August 2022

To : Catrina Rantala
From : James Garvin, Secretary, Pembroke Cemetery Commission
Re : Possible Cub Scout management of Veterans' flags in Pembroke Cemeteries

Thank you very much for explaining the proposal that a Pembroke Cub Scout troop, and possibly other Pembroke Scouts, might assume the duties of placing and removing veterans' flags in one or more of the public cemeteries of the Town of Pembroke.

Pembroke has eight public cemeteries, which range widely in size. They are:

1. Abbott Cemetery on Borough Road
2. Buck Street Cemetery on Buck Street and Batchelder Road
3. Evergreen Cemetery on Buck Street near Suncook Village
4. Old North Pembroke Cemetery on North Pembroke (Eighth Range) Road
5. New North Pembroke Cemetery on North Pembroke (Eighth Range) Road
6. Pembroke Hill Cemetery on Pembroke Hill or Fourth Range Road
7. Pembroke Street Cemetery on Pembroke Street
8. Richardson Cemetery on Sixth Range Road at the intersection with Cross Country Road

The Pembroke Cemetery Commission maintains a permanent metal flag holder at the grave of every known military veteran in each of these cemeteries. The flag holders are left at the associated grave year-round.

Before Memorial Day in May of each year, American flags are placed in each flag holder to mark each veteran's grave. After Veterans' Day in November of each year, the flags are removed and stored in the Hearse House at the front of Pembroke Street Cemetery. The flags that remain in good condition are reused the following year, while those that are torn or faded are retired and respectfully burned according to the Flag Code. The Commission maintains a supply of new flags in the hearse house for use as needed.

We spoke about the possibility of one Cub Scout troop assuming the duties of placing and removing flags in one or more cemeteries, depending on the capacity of the troop and the number of flags in the chosen cemeteries. We also spoke about the possibility that other troops might wish to assume such duties in additional public cemeteries in Pembroke.

As soon as I am able, I will provide you with an approximate count of the number of flags in each cemetery so that you can evaluate the capacity of your troop[s] to undertake this work. Meanwhile, on behalf of the Pembroke Cemetery Commission, I thank you very much for contacting the Public Works Department and inquiring about the possibility of Scout involvement in honoring the veterans of Pembroke.