

Minutes of 3/21/22 Cemetery Commission
6:00 PM
Remote Access Meeting with Zoom
(Under Emergency Order for Pandemic)
Approved 22.4.25 Meeting

Members present: Walter Tibbetts (WT), Susan Millinger (SM), Dina Stander (DS). Meeting called to order at 6:13

1. Minutes of the February 16 meeting: Motion to accept as amended was made, seconded, and unanimously approved by a roll call vote.
2. Further Discussion of Guidelines for Family-Directed Funerals: The document continues in process. DS reported on her meeting, planned for the 27th, with Barre Cemetery Commissioner Elizabeth Martin in Holden to learn about Barre’s green burial rules. and a funeral director to learn what funeral directors have prepared for family-directed funerals. The Guidelines the Cemetery Commission expects to develop will need to be directed to families, cemetery commissions, and funeral directors.
3. Discussion of changing lot pricing to reflect the changed categories of lot-holders: DS presented a new grave site price list. After making minor changes in the definition of the Non-Resident category, the list and definition given below were accepted in a motion which was seconded then unanimously approved in a roll call vote:

Shutesbury Cemetery Commission Grave Site Price List

Lot size	Resident	Non-Resident
Full Lot 18 ’x 18’ holds (8) graves	\$2800.00	\$4400.00
Half Lot 9’ x 18’ holds (4) graves	\$1400.00	\$2200.00
Quarter Lot 9’ x 9’ holds (2) graves	\$700.00	\$1100.00
Single Lot 4.5’ x 9’ holds (1) grave	\$350.00	\$700.00

New sales to ‘Non-Residents’ are available only to people who have previously resided in town, or have family members currently resident in town, or are descended from people who were residents, or at the discretion of the Cemetery Commission.

DS will put this new price list and definition of ‘Non-Resident’ on our web page.

4. Volunteer Spring clean-up day: Set for May 7, with a back-up date of May 14. There will be a public notice to be published in the school newsletter, the next issue of *Our Town*, on Town Announce, the Cemetery Commission website, Nextdoor Shutesbury, and in the Village Neighbors newsletter, with flyers posted at the Post Office, Town Hall and the Athletic Club. DS will draft a notice for *Our Town*, whose deadline is April 15.

WT provided a task list which included raking leaves and dead grass, cutting saplings and brush along the boundaries of the cemetery, grinding stumps, ripping out roots, loaming and seeding, and take out trees. WT plans to ask the groundskeepers to decide which tasks should be on the list. There was some discussion of how people should be assigned tasks; WT will be in charge of organization on Spring Clean-up Day.

5. Headstone cleaning and repair workshop: Of the original dates provided by TaMara Conde of Historic Gravestone Services (HGS), the Cemetery Commission prefers June 4 for a presentation and June 25 for the hands-on workshop. DS will contact Conde to see if these dates still work for her. Conde also needs to be asked if she has preferences for where we advertise the event and for selection of workshop participants, if more people express interest than the workshop can hold. (Assuming the ideal size would be about 15 people.) A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously by a roll call vote that the presentation be on June 4 and the workshop on June 25 if these dates are acceptable to HGS. If those dates are not available, they will be held on dates acceptable to HGS.
6. Changes in Shutesbury Cemetery Regulations: SM provided a draft of changes in the statement of transfer and repurchase of lots and also about vaults. The two drafts were discussed and altered, then motions were made, seconded and unanimously approved by roll call votes. The approved changes in the regulations are presented in an appendix to these minutes. It was noted that the language about vaults in the regulations for green burials will also need to be changed at a future meeting.
7. Unanticipated Items. WT brought up a problem which he recently learned about, and a problem about green cemeteries which DS had recently written about for the Greenfield Recorder. Venture capitalists have started to buy up forest land and make it into green cemeteries. Exorbitant fees are charged for burials, for which no records are kept: there are no official deeds of burial. Moreover, because these “cemeteries” are not under a conservation restriction, they can be developed. They can be very dangerous for the environment: cremated remains have the chemistry of oven cleaner for three years after burial. The Cemetery Commission would not want such cemeteries to come to Shutesbury. Being informed is important in prevention.
- 4 Date for next meeting: Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at 6 p.m.
- 5 Adjournment at 7:25 p.m. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously carried by roll call vote.

Submitted by

Susan Millinger

Cemetery Commission secretary

