

LCC minutes Mar 2019

The Lincoln Cemetery Commission held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 10 a.m. in Town Offices. Present were: Commissioners Manley Boyce, Susan Harding, Rob Todd, chair; and, Valerie Fox, Agent.

1. The minutes for February 2019 were accepted as written.
2. Interments: Theresa Panetta and Eleanor Fitzgerald. Since the burial of Eleanor happened after a major snow storm, extra equipment had to be rented to dig the grave. The bill from Sylcon will be sent to the family.
3. The Commissioners signed the two deeds for Deborah French (JC 707 and JC 714).
4. Maintenance: Joey will start the spring clean up when the snow melts. The Commission approved the warrant article for the Annual Town Meeting to raise \$5000 for more maintenance work, mostly trees.
5. Return of Lots: Helen Cole Green sold back to the Town Lot#105, near the Dallin statue, at the original price.
6. Natural Burial: Valerie and Susan met with people from Mt. Auburn Cemetery on March 1, 2019 to discuss their experiences and ask for advice in handling burial of bodies without embalming. Mt. Auburn has done this for over 10 years. There are differences between the two cemeteries, one private and one public. They listened to our concerns, and based on their experience made certain recommendations. Transportation is an issue - open trucks are not appropriate to transport bodies and few cars are big enough; therefore, hearses are practical and they know how to get the proper permits for transportation. To avoid embarrassing accidents that could result in law suits, Mt Auburn requires a lowering device - the cradle for a coffin routinely used by funeral homes. It is expensive to buy and funeral homes always own one. There are numerous certificates to procure for public records, and that is part of the services of a funeral home. Since timing is important for natural burial, a funeral home is best equipped to deal with a body that needs "delaying" as opposed to "preserving" as well as "unacceptable" (showing fluids). As a result, based on Mt. Auburn's recommendations, the Lincoln Commissioners have voted to accept natural burials with these two stipulations:
 - a. The family must use a Funeral Home;
 - b. A 100% biodegradable casket must be used.

Stipulation b promotes natural decomposition of organic tissue without adding any toxic or non-biodegradable materials to the site. It also acknowledges the sensibilities of DPW personnel who might be uncomfortable with dealing with only shrouded bodies. The Commission has set aside certain areas of the cemetery for this purpose and will see that those spaces are surveyed and marked for natural burial. Since no vaults will be used in these areas, the plots need to be used in a sequence that avoids traffic of heavy equipment, which will also mean they must be sold and used in a certain order. The Commission hopes to approve this new bylaw as soon as the designated plots have been surveyed.

7. Requests:

- a. Prepayment of burial costs: We can accept money paid in advanced, but final costs must be determined at the time of burial, since special expenses sometimes occur.
- b. Use of personal equipment to bring a stone to the cemetery: The Commission felt that only professionals should place all stones in order to protect surrounding monuments (DPW and monument firms). Stones could be brought to the work area by an individual (shed and DPW storage area). The DPW may charge a fee for placement.

8. Brochure revisions:

- a. Under (a) of RULES, change to All pets must be leashed and their waste removed.
- b. Add c to RULES, Unattended vehicles are prohibited in Cemetery and will be towed at Owner's expense. (Valerie will ask our police department about legality, wording, and enforcement. This would be posted at entrance of Lexington Road Cemetery.)

The Commission approved the use of in-house printing for future brochures due to ease of revision and expense, and liked the plain cream paper best.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Respectfully submitted, Susan Harding