

## TOWN OF LINCOLN

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TOWN CLERK  
Valerie Fox

### **Lincoln Cemetery Commission Minutes July 11, 2023**

The Lincoln Cemetery Commission held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at Town Offices. Present: Doug Harding, Chair, Manley Boyce, Commissioner, Rob Todd, Commissioner, Valerie Fox, Cemetery Agent, Nathalie Rice, Cemetery Agent Assistant, Cara Mahoney, Deputy Town Clerk, and Lisa Castro, Assistant Town Clerk.

The meeting opened at 10:03 AM.

1. The Cemetery Commission approved the minutes of the meeting of June 6, 2023 with one correction.
2. The Commission was notified of the following interments:
  - a. Phyllis Miller
  - b. Elizabeth Vining
  - c. Kathleen (Morrissey) Bunce
  - d. Homer Eckhardt
  - e. Jacqueline Snelling
  - f. Katherine Row
3. The following Deeds were signed by the Commission:
  - a. Eckhardt, Homer & Beverly – JF238
  - b. Goddard, Margaret – JC336 & JC338
  - c. Hallinan—Lot # 561
  - d. Fargo—Lot # 1005
  - e. Cook – New Deed Number assigned – Lot #600A
  - f. McCausland – New Deed Number assigned – Lot #600B
  - g. Ciampi – New Deed Number assigned – Lot #592A
  - h. Leidy – New Deed Number assigned – Lot #592B

Ms. Rice explained the need for the change in lot numbers on four lots (Cook, McCausland, Ciampi and Leidy). In the process of reviewing the map of these lots, Ms. Rice noted that the lot numbers had been incorrectly assigned.

4. Green Burials – Sobel Request - The Commission met with Anne Buxton Sobol regarding her request to purchase a green burial lot for herself. The Commission explained that she could not reserve a lot, nor pre-pay for the lot due to the process involved in interments. They explained that the casket must be wooden or cardboard, and that a funeral director must be used. In response to a question from Ms. Sobel, the Commission stated that her husband’s cremains could be buried with her, as long as the cremains were in a biodegradable container.

The appointment with Ms. Sobel prompted a larger discussion of green burials, with specific concerns raised over how couples could be buried together. The current layout of Fern Way and Juniper Way “green burial” lots, makes this very challenging. The Commission agreed that specific guidelines pertinent to Natural Burials will need to be created.

5. Ruland Request for Bollards – Ms. Fox reported she had a request from the Ruland family (Lot 923B) to install bollards on the side of their lot due to tire tracks noticed on its edge. Mr. Boyce reported that the tire marks were from a vault truck, not customary use. The Commission denied the request due to safety reasons and to facilitate snowplowing. They noted that DPW smooths over such damage when time allows.
6. Updating of Cemetery Maps – Ms. Rice reported on her work updating the Cemetery maps. This led to the next item on the agenda, an estimate received for surveying a section of the Cemetery that seemed not to have been correctly mapped.
7. Estimate to re-survey a section of Lincoln Cemetery – Ms. Fox noted how important accurate maps were for the Cemetery and stated that an estimate had been requested from BSC, the survey firm that had completed the last update. The estimate was \$5,500. Ms. Rice will see if this can be reduced.
8. Update on Plotbox Project – Ms. Fox reported that she is waiting on the maps that Ms. Rice is working on as the next step in the process. Once the maps are done, Plotbox will be able to give the Town an estimate for their work.
9. Request for tree to be planted - French, Lots, JC 707, JC708, JC714 and JC715. The Commission approved a request from the French family to plant a dogwood in the treeline near Lot JC708. (Trees may not be planted on the cremation lots themselves.) The Commission noted that the family should be aware that the Town does not spray, water or maintain family plantings.
10. Veteran Request – Ms. Fox stated that she had received an inquiry regarding whether veterans are eligible for a lot free of cost in the Lincoln Cemetery. After some discussion, the Commission stated that veterans with no family plot or funds to purchase a lot, could be buried in the Police and Fire Lot.
11. Arborvitae Cemetery – Tree damage – Mr. Boyce reported that an arborvitae had fallen across Lexington Road from the back side of the Arborvitae Cemetery. There was damage to the wall, but not to any headstones. Mr. Boyce will report back to the Commission following review.
12. The Commission discussed potential solutions to address the current status of the arbor vitae trees surrounding the cemetery, (which suffer from continuous deer browse), or perhaps installing historic railings of some type. This will be revisited at the next meeting.

13. Budget Update – This will be reviewed at a future meeting.
14. Gravestone Clean-up Project – Ms. Fox reported that Chase Bank had contacted the Town about doing a community outreach project. Ms. Fox suggested a project of conservation and restoration of gravestones in Lincoln’s three oldest cemeteries. An estimate for training and supervision of volunteers was prepared by Ta Mara Conde of Historic Gravestone Services.
15. Grave Marker Preservation in Bemis and Precinct Cemeteries – Ms. Fox reported an estimate from Ta Mara Conde of Historic Gravestone Services for the conservation and repair of seven grave markers in these two cemeteries.
16. Flat Marker Request – Michael Danziger lot – JF219. The Commission approved a flat marker for this lot.
17. Flag Pole for the Lexington Cemetery – Ms. Fox updated the Commission. She reported that an estimate for a 25’ pole had come in at \$4,962. She will seek estimates for a 35’ and 40’ pole.
18. Purchase of Lot 1061, Billings - Ms. Fox reported that Penny Billings would like to purchase lot 1061, but that she was also interested in preserving Lot 913B to maintain the natural beauty of the area. (Lot 913B is dominated by rocks, trees and shrubs.) The Commission noted the contributions the Billings have made to the Town through their service on many boards. Mr. Billings who passed away in 2022 was a long-time member of the Conservation Commission. The Board stated that since Lot 913B was questionable at best, and due to the fact that its placement adds to the rural beauty of the cemetery, it will be taken “off line” and not sold in the future. It will remain as a natural feature in this area.
19. Update on Cunningham marker, – The Commission approved a bench and flat markers on this lot.
20. Dalin Statue Repatination Update – Mr. Todd reported that he had received two estimates on the preservation and repatination of the Dalin Statue. With the statue remaining in place, one estimate quoted \$15,000. If moved to a shop for repatination, a second estimate was \$28,000.
21. Rates for Lot Sales and Burials – Ms. Fox noted that rates for lot sales appear to be higher in neighboring towns. The cost of lots was doubled in 2018. The Commission will review this at a future meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nathalie Rice, Cemetery Agent Assistant.