

LCC Minutes – July 13, 2021

The Lincoln Cemetery Commission held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 10.00a.m. at Town Offices. Present were Rob Todd, chair; Manley Boyce, Commissioner, Doug Harding, Commissioner and Valerie Fox, Cemetery Agent, Steve McDonald, DPW Foreman and Susan Donaldson, DPW Office Manager.

1. The Minutes for May and June were accepted as written.
2. Patricia Killian has requested permission to have conservation work done on the Eloise Fisk marker. The Commission requested the name of the conservator.
3. The Commission discussed Lincoln Longfellow's request to remove a tree stump in the lot. Manley Boyce will review the lot to consider the benefit of grinding the stump. Doug Harding discussed the possibility of using an accelerant to encourage decay.
4. Manley provided documentation of assets to be included in the Town's insurance policy. Valerie will follow up with accounting to provide copies of actual invoices.
5. Manley informed the Commission that Brett Ramsden had completed a 77 foot stone wall in Fern Way and an invoice for \$9,200 was approved for payment.
6. Doug mentioned creating a 3-5 year long term plan for the cemetery.
7. Valerie informed the Commission that the Director of Parks & Recreation, who negotiates the landscaping contract with Park Landscaper's, the landscaping company for the cemeteries, has denied any involvement with damage to a bench belonging to the Mayo family. The Commission employed Acton Monument to restore the bench at a cost of \$360. The Commission has requested Valerie to bring this issue to the Assistant Town Administrator to pursue. Doug mentioned examining the possibility of deducting it from a future landscaping invoice. Valerie will follow up with finance to see if this is an option.
8. Manley requested information for a contingency plan for emergencies at the cemeteries. Valerie will invite the Finance Director, Colleen Wilkins to an upcoming meeting.
9. The Commission would also like to discuss increasing the budget.
10. Valerie informed the Commission that we have received a quote for the repair of a broken monument. Historic Gravestones, owned by Tamara Conde will repair the monument for \$500. Ms. Conde has been awarded a contract in the past to restore tombstones and is familiar with the cemeteries. The Commission would like to wait until June of 2022 to review any remaining funding. The Commission discussed the possibility of creating a preferred list of conservators. The Commission also discussed creative options to employ a part time conservator in the future.
11. The Millard family have 4 plots in the cemetery. The Cemetery Commission voted to allow one upright monument per plot. Doug Harding discussed requesting the family to consider returning some lots to the town, Manley Boyce agreed to contact the family to discuss this.
12. The cemetery caretaker will be absent for some time and the DPW have covered responsibilities during this absence. Susan Donaldson iterated the possibility of the Commission hiring a student to cover in the interim. There does not appear to be a pressing need at this time for additional coverage.
13. The Commission discussed soil erosion along the roadside rims. Valerie informed the Commission that she reviewed the situation with the Conservation Director and they suggested meeting with the DPW Director to discuss compacted soil use among other options.

14. On behalf of the Cemetery Commission, Valerie requested that Chris Bibbo, DPW Superintendent, purchase 2 trash bins for the Cemetery if there were any remaining funds in the DPW budget at the end of the fiscal year. Chris suggested covering this in FY22 however Susan Donaldson explained FY21 was a better year to acquire this. There were funds remaining due to COVID.
15. Steve McDonald requested that the practice of marking graves be reviewed due to the unsightliness of the stakes and the time consuming aspect of marking lots for purchase. Valerie explained that residents wishing to purchase lots are very anxious to know their exact final resting place and spend considerable time evaluating their exact preferences. Doug Harding suggested adding additional identifying markers in the Juniper Way section and this would make it easier to find lot corners.
16. The Commission discussed inviting Tish, the Cemetery Superintendent from Concord to attend our next meeting.
17. The Commission considered installing restored and new signage in the cemetery. The Commission will meet at the cemetery to review the best location for the signage. The Commission liked Steve McDonald's suggestion of granite posts to support the signage but decided whatever is easiest to install in the short term would be most suitable. They would explore granite posts at a later time.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Fox

Cemetery Agent