

# MONTAGUE CEMETERY COMMISSION

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2025

1. **Roll Call** Judith Lorei, Jamie Fuller, Mary Kay Mattiace  
Sexton Amber Korby

2. **Minutes** November minutes approved as corrected.  
December minutes approved as corrected.

### 3. Report Updates

#### a. Cemetery Sexton

Amber reported natural burial ground plot sales total 54 for an income of \$44,400.00.

Amber and Judith will continue mapping of burial ground property in the Spring.

In anticipation of raising burial fees, a discussion will follow at the February meeting.

Amber has been asked to sit on a “Death and Dying” panel at the Greenfield Public Library in March.

#### b Volunteer Committee

MK hopes to begin the process this Spring of addressing certain behaviors at Highland Lawn Cemetery that violate the Rules and Regulations set forth by the Commission.

#### c. Cemetery Partners

Jamie wishes to pursue getting an aerial view of Old South, and in that spirit, she will talk to the young boy who has a drone and the capability to do such aerial work, with whom she has been in contact. That discussion will include the extent of his interest, the feasibility of such a project for him, and possible fees to be rendered.

Jamie Simpson reported a minimal amount of clean up needed this month at Highland Woods.

Judith noted that Old South has funds that total \$6600.00 and Burnham has funds that total \$3600.00. She will consult with Angelica Desroches as to the availability of these funds.

Following questions regarding extending a fence at Burnham to enclose the north side of the cemetery, Judith suggested that the Commission begin to consider making a list of priority projects for the upcoming warmer months. To be followed up at the February meeting.

**4. Purchase of 2 stone benches for Highland Woods**

Mike Fleming has submitted an “invoice” for the benches and installation, which totals \$2200.00. A motion was made and seconded to accept a payment of \$2200.00 be made to Mike Fleming for 2 stone benches to be placed at Highland Woods. Unanimously approved. MK will contact Mike to inquire as to his expectation of being paid, i.e., now or when the benches is completed. The Commission will decide on the location of the benches before said installation.

**5. Commission vacancy**

After a brief discussion in which MK noted the faithful work of Jamie Simpson as Partner of Highland Woods and his interest in serving on the Commission, it was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to accept Jamie as our next Commission member. Judith will send out notices to Jamie S. and Jo-Ann Prescott regarding the necessary paperwork to facilitate required transactions.

**6. Process for donating plots/eligibility criteria for receiving donation**

A lengthy discussion followed, noting the complex nature of making monies available for folks unable to pay, for either burial plots and/or burial fees. MK will contact Green Burial Alliance and other sources for guidelines. Further discussion tabled until February meeting.

**7. Other business**

Following up on the efforts to secure a more equitable wage/fee for the multiple hours involved in the responsibilities of our Sexton, Judith met with the Finance Committee. Since the monies to pay for our Sexton are taken from the Commission’s existing funds, no approval is needed from the Town beyond this point. Judith will now speak with Angelica Desroches regarding the timed

payments, as the agreed amount is \$28.00/hour will be classified as a stipend. The hourly rate is consistent with fees paid for such work regionally.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20.

Next meeting is February 17th, at 6pm at the G-M Senior Center.

In Service,  
Mary Kay Mattiace