

Montague Cemetery Commission
Minutes
Monthly Meeting
November 13, 2023

1. Roll call

Present: Judith Lorei, Annie Levine, Jamie Fuller, MK.
Mattiace, Jo-Ann Prescott. Guest, Amber Korby

2. Minutes from October 16, 2023

Amended to strike phone and email contact info of Maureen
McNamara

Approved as amended

This meeting's minutes will be transcribed by MK

3. Updates

a. Highland Woods

i. signs

MK reported that she met with folks at Hales Sign Co. and they are in the process of creating a template, anticipated to be finished this week.

When complete, two commission members will go to Hales to finalize details like exact size, colors to be used, insignia on sign, design of iron scroll, etc..

ii. plantings/seating for gathering area

Both shade gardens have been installed in the natural burial west entrance area. There are a few plants in the ground and several seeds that have scattered throughout. More of both will be added next Spring and Summer.

Mike Fleming normally creates 5-6 stone benches over the winter months. We will have an opportunity to choose a couple of those next Spring, and/or he will

make benches to suit our particular needs, depending on funding.

Walker Korby is working on cutting the stumps for the gathering area and will deliver "before the snow flies."

b. Cemetery Partners

Old South

High praise for the clean-up done by Walker and his crew. He will complete project this Fall.

Judith announced that our current maintenance contractor will do Fall cleaning including leaf pick up.

Jamie will do end-of-year removal of artificial flowers, etc.

Fairway

Condition - good

Burnham

Judith cut and removed a truck load of debris in October creating visibility of a number of headstones and access to others. To be continued in the Spring.

East Mineral and West Chestnut Hill

Condition - good

Highland and Highland Woods

Clean-up day November 16th, 10-12

c. Sustainability planning

Noted; Judith has worked consistently and persistently for months with town officials, primarily Steve Ellis, promoting sustainability issues concerning the cemetery commission, most eminently the creation of a position of Sexton responsible for responding to burial needs in real time, as well as long term lot/plot purchases.

Judith and another board member will meet with the Select Board November 27th in an effort to exact

the above.

4. Montague Cemeteries meeting

Discussion on purpose of such a gathering and possible challenges involved

More discussion to follow at December meeting.

5. 2024 Schedule

Meetings in 2024 will be monthly and dates decided upon at December meeting.

Other business:

Jo-Ann summarized highlights of a meeting she recently attended of the Eastern Massachusetts Historical Commission Coalition. Highlights included toxic aspects of lawn or conventional cemeteries and ways to minimize adverse consequences of some unavoidable features of such cemeteries and/or reduce risks.

Jo-Ann also invited the members to view the work she has done and is doing on a scrapbook compiling activities, projects, and creations the current commission has/is undertaking.

Judith has been talking with Amber Baker regarding her interest in becoming

the Sexton for the town cemeteries of Montague, pending approval of the position.

More orientation will be ongoing.

Judith expressed concern regarding the simultaneous absence of both her and MK over the upcoming winter holidays. Discussion followed.

Given the town's approval of the Sexton position as well as ongoing orientation, members agreed Amber would be prepared to step up if need arose during said period.

Judith will be moving the key to the shed at Highland to a location more assessable during the winter months.

Meeting adjourned at x

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kay Mattiace

