



TOWN OF WILBRAHAM
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING
240 Springfield Street Wilbraham, MA 01095



Board of Cemetery Commissioners

●Adams Cemetery ●East Wilbraham Cemetery ●Glendale Cemetery

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 MEETING

September 12, 2201

1. Meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m.
2. Wilfred Renaud, Donald Bourcier, and Sharon Kipetz were in attendance.
3. Veterans Markers: This agenda item was discussed first. Jered Sasen, Director of Veterans Services was in attendance for this item. Jered shared a brief overview of the issue. The three Wilbraham Cemeteries were charging Veterans families \$300.00 to install a Veterans Marker. This is not the practice at cemeteries in the surrounding areas Jered approached DPW to see if they would install the markers at no charge to the family. The DPW agreed. Jered also approached the Cemetery Commission and they agreed to have the DPW install the markers. The first installation had problems with cememet showing and needed to be corrected. This was corrected. The second installation also had a problem with the placement of the marker being 1/4 inch off making it not in line with other markers. There was discussion regarding this situation with the DPW worker and a Commissioner. This discussion resulted in the DPW worker saying they would not install any more Veterans Markers. Jered obtained \$900.00 from the VFW to pay for the installation of the 3 markers since the families were told that they would be installed by the DPW with no cost to them. The Director of the DPW said that it was not the staff members decision to determine if DPW would discontinue installing the Veterans markers at no cost.

In the past 7 years there have been 61 burials, 48 were not Veterans, 13 were Veterans.

Wilfred Renaud suggested that the cost be absorbed by each Cemetery and the payment for the installation by an outside service be funded from the funds collected for burials and grave purchase. Don Bourcier and Sharon Kipetz voiced concern that this could be considered an inappropriate use of funds and a possible ethics violation since only Veterans would be eligible to have markers placed at no cost.

It was decided that Wilfred Renaud would follow up with the Town Manager and seek the advice of the Town Attorney if this could be a potential state ethics violation or an inappropriate use of funds. If additional information is needed from the surrounding town the Commision will contact surrounding towns.

4. Finances: Tax cards were distributed, along with a handout on Foundations for 2 x4 Markers, and 2020 Cemetery balances.

5. Old Business: CPA funds - no repairs have been made at Adams or East Cemetery. John Battarok who does the repairs has been contacted to see if there is a potential date that they might occur. Because of the increase of deaths due to Covid 19 things have pretty much come to a stand still. Wilfred let us know if we can carry the grant over until the repairs can be done.

Projects updates: Adams - Sharon is still working on the possibility of having street signs installed A discussion on how to provide better information to the public by additional use of the Web was held. The kiosk roof is beginning to show age and it was suggested that Sharon contact the Boys Scouts at St. Cecilia's who originally built it to see if they would be interested in doing a repair. Quotes are being gotten regarding pruning and/or removal of several trees in Adams.

Glendale - Don is working with Mountain View on having them maintain the gardens.

East - no projects

Trash continues to be a problem in Adams and Sharon will speak with Mountain View to see if they will be willing to take this over and what the cost will be.

6. New Business: Wilfred said that the web page has been updated. Sharon reported that it is the Cemetery Commissions responsibility to pay for any cost associated with the removal of paint and toxic materials.

7. Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Kipetz