

Town of Millbury  
Minutes of  
Cemetery Commission Meeting  
June 17, 2019

TOWN CLERK  
2019 JUL 17 AM 8:21  
MILLBURY, MASS

**ITEM ONE – CALL TO ORDER**

Marcia Landry called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Gil Picard, Marcia Landry, Randy Mogren, Keith Caruso and Amy Paquette-Riordan.

**ITEM TWO – GUEST/SPEAKER:**

Ron Marlborough, Matthew Mulhane and Selectman Mary Krumsiek were present.

Ron opened the discussion regarding the removal of the trash barrels at Central Cemetery. He informed the Cemetery Commissioners that multiple people have asked him why the barrels were removed. Marcia Landry informed Mr. Marlborough that the barrels have not been removed they have been relocated to West Street. The Cemetery Commissioners and DPW Supervisor Keith Caruso decided that relocating the barrels would make the look of the cemetery more pleasing. Keith Caruso then informed Ron that the barrels were being filled by soil and household trash and with limited staff the DPW was unable to get over there and empty barrels every day. The relocation was to deter individuals from pulling into the cemetery and basically cleaning out their cars. Keith Caruso stated they are working on a resolution for the residents to dump dirt and soil so it is not thrown into the trash barrels. Ron informed the commission that most people use the main road in and the main road out and cannot see the trash barrels in the new location. Randy Mogren informed Ron that without the barrels in the cemetery it aesthetically looks better without trash barrels located everywhere. Marcia Landry informed Ron that they are not in the “trash Business” in which Ron strongly disagreed. He even stated that the town will be putting two trash barrels out at the new dam. Keith Caruso informed Ron that the barrels were removed over the winter and a conversation was had with the Cemetery Commission about relocating the barrels this spring. Marcia stated that the barrels looked beautiful now that they were fixed up over the winter and the new location is where they will stay. Ron stated that the barrels need to be more visible. Marcia informed Ron the commission will take his suggestion under advisement. Matt Mulhane asked the DPW Supervisor how many times a week the barrels were being emptied and the answer was 2 to 3 times a week. Mary Krumsiek asked the Commissioners to verify where the barrels are located and she was then informed they are now located on West Street. A lengthy discussion was had by all with the end result being that the new location of the trash barrels would be posted on the website and the electronic signboard will be set up at the cemetery to guide individuals to the new location.

Matthew Mulhane then stated he had some concerns/questions regarding the bid that is out for grave mark out and excavation services. He asked the Cemetery Commission and the DPW Supervisor if the town was legally obligated to go with the lowest bidder. Does the town get to chose the bidder? Matthew also expressed his concerns at the Commissioners drafting policies “as done by other towns”, he stated that the town needs a Cemetery manager-this could be the solution to a lot of the issues you see, such as trash, loaming and seeding, placement of markers, mark outs, etc. If that position was to be created and filled, he feels it will eliminate a lot of the problems that occur due to the lack of staffing.

Ron Marlborough asked the Cemetery Commissioners if the mark out fee will be added onto the cost of the opening and are the families being charged for the mark out? Marcia Landry informed Ron that the individual receiving the service will be paying for it. Keith Caruso informed the guests and the commissioners that he has no idea what the fee will be as bids are currently out and not due until the end of the month.

Matt Mulhane stated that the Board of Selectmen needs to address the lack of employees- Grafton and Sutton have similar size cemeteries. Central Cemetery has been ignored and the people of the town are not happy. He feels that additional fees would not come up and goes back to the position that needs to be created. Keith Caruso and Marcia Landy both agreed that they were all for more staffing for the cemetery care and maintenance. Keith also stated that the one-year mark out and excavation contract is to help alleviate the work load from the Parks Department which consists of one full time employee-he is doing his best to come up with some solutions.

Matt Mulhane stated that the past three DPW Director's had no knowledge of the cemeteries in which Marcia Landry interjected that there had been only one previous DPW Director and Rob McNeil had wonderful knowledge of the cemetery and attended all meetings and was hands on. Matt stated the grass and the care of the cemetery in general needs to be addressed. Marcia ensured Matt that the commissioners were doing the best that they could with limited funds such as new mowers, seed and fertilizer. Marcia then informed Matt Mulhane to feel free to go to the town and ask for full time cemetery staff. Marcia Landry stated there is not enough staff and no current plans for increased staff in the budget and she agrees that there needs to be a more permanent solution and Keith Caruso agreed. Keith Caruso stated that the budget this year allowed for fertilizer and that weather conditions work against them. If the weather is too wet it washes the seed away, if it's too dry the seed doesn't take and fertilizer requires watering and they do not have the staffing to be there constantly for that. Marcia Landry would like to know when Matt Mulhane gets on the Board of Selectmen agenda to discuss additional staffing.

### **ITEM THREE- MEETING MINUTES:**

The Cemetery Commission reviewed the meeting minutes from the May 20, 2019 meeting. Marcia Landry made a motion to accept the minutes are written. The motion was seconded by Randy Mogren. A unanimous vote ensued.

### **ITEM FOUR-NEW BUSINESS:**

Marcia Landry asked the DPW if he can stripe in lines for the parking spaces near the shed. Keith Caruso stated that lines can be done. Marcia Landry also asked the DPW supervisor if the summer kids can remove trash from the cemetery while they are working there. Keith Caruso informed Marcia that he is looking into a trailer for the new mower so that trash may be picked up while the summer kids are attending to the cemetery.

### **ITEM FIVE – COMMUNICATIONS:**

**ITEM SIX-MONUMENTS/FLAT MARKER APPROVALS:**

Joann M. Thomas (Moen)-Empire Granite-Marcia Landry made a motion to approve marker as submitted, seconded by Randy Mogren, vote unanimous.

**ITEM SEVEN- NEW BURIALS**

Joann Boyd-5/31/19 Sec 2 Lot 491 (Full)  
Arline Stratford-6/1/19 Sec 1 Lot 186 (Full)  
Marianne Heigi-6/6/19 Sec 5 Lot 119 (Full)  
William E. Jones-6/10/19 Sec 10 Lot 161 (Full)

**ITEM EIGHT – OLD BUSINESS:**

**BIDS**-The bids for FY2020 Cemetery Services are scheduled to be opened on 6/28/2019 at 10:00 a.m. in the small conference room at the town hall.

**RULES & REGULATIONS**-Workshop will be scheduled for 6/21/2019 at 9:00 a.m.

**PRE-SALES**-concerns are record keeping, order the lots are to be sold in and how preneed funeral planning will be handled.

**ITEM NINE – FUTURE MEETING DATES**

Upcoming meeting dates will be July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and then will be determined by the Re-Organization schedule.

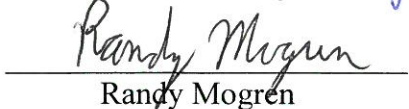
**ITEM TEN – ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:19 p.m. Marcia Landry motioned to adjourn the meeting; Randy Mogren seconded. Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote.

Respectfully prepared by Amy Paquette-Riordan

  
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Gil Picard

  
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Marcia Landry

  
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Randy Mogren