

Town of Millbury
Minutes of
**Cemetery Commission
Meeting
October 15, 2019**

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MILLBURY, MASS.

ITEM ONE – CALL TO ORDER

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

Present: Marcia Landry, Randy Mogren (Cemetery Commissioners),
Christine Billington (Secretary), Stuart Mulhane, William Bedord and
Charlotte Bedord.

Absent: Gil Picard

ITEM TWO – GUESTS:

None at this time

ITEM THREE– MEETING MINUTES:

None at this time.

ITEM FOUR-NEW BUSINESS:

Charlotte Bedord and William Bedord looking to transfer lots. Mr. Bedord asked if he could go over something else before we talk about the lots. He would like to talk about his headstone on the lots first. Marcia stated that Christine had mentioned this about the roots in the lot and in the absence of Keith Caruso the DPW supervisor and the Cemetery person Marcia does not know what kind of help or approval that they can give because the board does not go down to the cemetery and make the placements of the stones. Keith Caruso and the person who is working in the cemetery now will need to go down to the cemetery and see what is going on. Mr. Bedord stated that Stuart Mulhane has been doing some probing down at the cemetery. Mr. Bedord stated that their lots are directly across from the shed and he showed pictures of the roots that are in the lot.

Stuart Mulhane stated that he has a drawing for a sixteen grave lot and he needs something metal to try to locate the pins. Stuart has been probing lots. Marcia asked if any of the graves have been used and it was stated by Stuart that one grave has been used for Viola Brownstein and he is not sure where she is but he said he

knows where her monument is. Marcia asked if he found a marker and Stuart said that they are too deep and he could not find one. Stuart said he knows that the record states that she is in one spot but the records state that she is here. Mr. Bedord stated that they can move the stone back and now he is concerned about the lots being viable.

Mr. Bedord stated that he bought the lots many years ago and there were no trees there at the time. Mr. Bedord also stated that he just wants to get a headstone up and he knows that he is running out of time for this year as the water will be shut off soon. Mr. Bedord asked Christine when the water is shut off and Christine said she will need to look into this and find out. Marcia thinks that it will be by the end of this month or before it freezes. Randy asked if they are trying to get a stone. Mr. Bedord stated that they already had the stone and it was approved in August meeting. Marcia stated basically that all the board does is approve the stone and make sure it meets the guide lines of the rules and regulations, Randy asked if he could see the picture of the stone, Marcia spoke about where the particular remains will be placed.

Mr. Bedord asked if they could place the stone in the second row in the middle. Marcia stated that she knows of another family in the cemetery that they have the stone in center of the lots. Some of them have had full burials and some have had cremains in the lot which gives more options in the lot. Marcia stated that when it is put in the middle of the lot it still gives you the head or leg room for a vault because the base of the stone is not that big provided that they can go in and dig appropriately. Mr. Bedord stated that they are afraid of putting the stone in anywhere until they find out if they can actually use the lots or not. Mr. Bedord is afraid if they put the stone in and the roots lift up the stone or if there is ledge in the lots then what will happen. Marcia stated that the base of the stone is not very big, Stuart stated that the base needs to go below the frost line. Stuart said before this goes too far he said he was hitting something when he was probing.

Stuart informed the Commissioners said in lot 730 that there is ledge there and no matter where he goes down to probe once and a while he goes down deep enough he said that he hits either stone or a vault and there should be no vaults there unless his drawing is not correct. Stuart wants to find out if the lots are even usable not so much for a monument but for vaults. Stuart said that the roots are in the way for the monument. Marcia does not understand what these marking are on lot 730. Stuart explained about the pins and lots are two grave lots. The pins are at the foot of the grave and each pin is four graves. Stuart is not stating he is right or wrong and the only way this can be corrected is if there is a backhoe brought over and dig up the lots. Stuart thinks when they sold the lot that they did not know that there was ledge there. Marcia asked if they had the deed. Stuart provided the deed for twelve graves plus two more totaling fourteen. Lot 728 right and left to make sixteen lots.

Mr. Bedord stated that he thought it was in the 70's but Marcia stated it showed on the deed it was the 1980 and Marcia stated she always wanted to see an older deed to see the cost of the graves and it was stated two grave lots were \$150.00 which was a bargain back then, Mr. Bedord stated that it was a bargain. Mr. Bedord asked what a grave went for today and Marcia stated it was \$600.00 for a single grave and \$1,200 for a double grave. Mr. Bedord stated that just recently they had to sell their home in Millbury because Charlotte's health is declining and they had to move out of Millbury. Stuart thinks his numbers are correct but they need to find out where Viola Brownstein is buried and Marcia stated that it shows on the photo that she was moved. Marcia stated that it said on the paper that Viola Brownstein was in 728 and moved to 729. Stuart thinks that she was moved because on the paper it states 729 and the monument is at the bottom of the lot. Mr. Bedord stated he thinks she is at the front of the monument on the end. Stuart showed that 729 it is stated that it is the second row on the bottom. Marcia stated that it is hard to work on the lot without finding pins. Stuart said he could have the numbers mixed up.

Mr. Bedord stated that when he purchased the lots there was no talk about ledge at all, it was not found out until he had a discussion with Stuart. Stuart said when you probe a site you can tell if it is stone or a vault and Stuart stated that there is a vault down there. Marcia stated that she did not want to keep any originals of deeds and Christine stated that she made copies and are with the Bedord packet.

Mr. Bedord asked what happens when they do burials and they run into the roots what do they do with the vaults. Marcia stated that she does not know if the grave digger has experienced that or not but with experience as being a homeowner when you see roots they are usually old and if you touch them they usually desinagrate over time they compost themselves. Mr. Bedord stated that the tree is in pretty good condition. Stuart stated not too long ago that one of the trees in the same row had to be taken down for an immediate burial. Marcia stated that the Bedord's would not be responsible to take the tree down it would be the Town who would take the tree down. Marcia stated that if there was no one buried here then we can exchange the lots that were not usable to give you lots somewhere else that were usable.

If the board gives you new real estate and somewhere in the future the lots would be sold at the current price. Randy stated that we should wait and talk to Keith Caruso and see if he can go over and see whether there is ledge or not. Stuart stated that he is only probing. Marcia stated that it does indicate on the paper that lot 730 has ledge. Randy stated that Viola Brownstein needs to be found and then dig a trench six feet deep and he would like to see if it is usable now instead of later. Stuart thinks that if you start in the middle and go down and you would be able to see what is usable. Mr. Bedord stated that he and Charlotte always wanted to be buried in the

lots that they purchased. Mr. Bedord stated that the other lots by the shed did not interest the Bedord's. Randy stated that we need Keith Caruso to go to the cemetery and see if he can find the pins and go from there to see what is usable or not. The Bedord's just want the headstone in before Charlotte passes. Randy stated you can put the headstone anywhere in the lot that you want. Whatever is usable the board can refund what is not usable at the price that it was purchased for and then the Bedord's can purchase somewhere else in the cemetery. It will not take long to find out what is usable or not.

Mr. Bedord asked that if the tree is a problem then will the town take it down. Marcia stated that if the tree is a problem it can be taken down that is not a problem. Marcia stated that the tree warden can determine if it is a viable tree or not. Marcia stated that Keith Caruso needs to go over and find out where Viola Brownstein is and then we can go from there.

Marcia stated that the other business was the transfer of lots. Mr. Bedord stated that they were in the business of buying cemetery plots. Mr. Bedord would like to deed the lots to the Perry's if at all possible. Mr. Bedord stated that he has four more lots to give to Stuart if they need it. Marcia stated that by the Cemetery Rules and Regulations that the Bedord's cannot deed the lots, they would need to be sold back to the town. Marcia stated that it is like having the right of first refusal on the lots. The town will refund you at the original purchase price and the lots then become part of the town's inventory.

Mr. Bedord stated that he would still like the Perry's to purchase the lots that he has. Marcia stated that we do not do presales right now. If it was a husband and wife then they can purchase two lots. Stuart stated that he has letters stating that Mr. Bedord would like the Perry's to be buried in the lots. Marcia stated that again that goes against the rules and regulations of the town. If it met the town's guidelines, then you would need to sell the lots back to the town. Stuart stated that he is just looking to have the Perry's use the lots that the Bedord's wanted to them to use. Stuart stated that the letter would be with the deed stating that the Bedord's want the Perry's to be buried in the lots. Marcia stated that it is still not within the rules and regulations to do that. Mr. Bedord stated that he just wanted to give back to the town's people who do not have money to purchase a lot and he would like to give them to Stuart to hold as the owner of the lots. Marcia stated that in the past they have opened up to pre-sale certain lots for someone to purchase, the lots that Mr. Bedord wants to give to the Perry's can be done that way. The board would need to vote on this. Marcia stated that if the Perry's purchase the lots that the Bedord's want to sell back to the town then that can be done, then the lots would become the property of the Perry's. Marcia stated that this has been done in the past. Mr. Bedord

asked if he could do the same with the other lots to Stuart. Marcia stated that this would be one of the exceptions to the rule. The board would need to vote on this.

Randy stated that if someone was in Florida and wanted to sell back the lots to the town then they could do that. Marcia stated that once someone has the deed that it is a lot more legal doing it that way. The only exception is the presale, deciding the cost of the lots now verses then. Marcia explained they are trying to get the record keeping in order. Mr. Bedord asked how to go about getting the other four lots to Stuart. Marcia stated that she would like to hold off on the four lots for now. Marcia stated that William and Charlotte should write a letter to the board stating that they want to sell the lots back to the town and have the Perry's write a letter stating that they would like to purchase the lots that the Bedord's sold back to the town.

Mr. Bedord asked what does the board think about the other four lots and Marcia stated that she would say to hold onto the lots then you can put whoever you want to put into the lot. But your heirs would need to know what you want to do with the lots. Randy stated that whoever you want to put in the lots is your decision. Marcia agreed that it is your decision on who you wish to bury in those lots. Marcia stated that just to follow the paper trail. Marcia stated that once Keith Caruso is able to complete his assessment of the lots at the cemetery the commissioner's will get back to William and Charlotte Bedord to see what is usable and not usable. Marcia stated you can place your stone anywhere you would like. Mr. Bedord wanted to get the stone set before the winter. Marcia stated that you should be able to do it. Charlotte stated that she never thought that this would happen so soon. Marcia stated that she is sorry about her condition. Paperwork was given to Christine so she can do the letters for the Bedord's and the Perry's. Mr. Bedord stated why they needed to move out of Millbury was because of Charlotte's health.

ITEM FIVE – COMMUNICATIONS:

Nothing at this time.

ITEM SIX-MONUMENTS/FLAT MARKER APPROVALS:

The following monuments/markers were approved by a unanimous vote:
Gedman - Section 10 Lot 106 L (Whitinsville Monument)

ITEM SEVEN– NEW BURIALS:

Stephen Gedman - 9/16/2019 Section 10 Lot 106L (Full) **New**
Maxine Mayotte - 9/14/2019 Section 6 Lot 31L (Full)
Richard Ezold - 9/26/2019-Section 6 Lot 22L (Full)
Dorothy R. Roach - 10/4/19 Section 8 Lot 114R (Full)

ITEM EIGHT – OLD BUSINESS:

Nothing at this time.

Marcia asked Randy about the poles at the cemetery and Randy stated that he has not had a chance to talk to Keith Caruso yet. Marcia stated that it was more if they had the time and crew to install the poles and signs, order time and installation time.

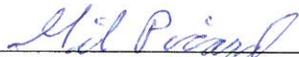
ITEM NINE – FUTURE MEETING DATES

Upcoming meeting date will be November 18, 2019 and December 16, 2019.

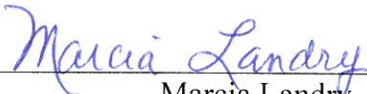
ITEM TEN – ADJOURNMENT

At 5:57 p.m. Marcia Landry motioned to adjourn the meeting; Randy Mogren seconded. Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote.

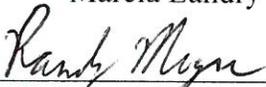
Respectfully prepared by Christine Billington.



Gil Picard



Marcia Landry



Randy Mogren