

Town of Springfield – Cemetery Commissioners

Minutes

Selectmen's Hall - 96 Main Street - Third Floor

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

Commissioners present: Scott Page, Gerald Patch, Hugh Putnam and Barbara A. Courchesne, Ex-Officio.

Meeting called to order: 5:08 p.m. by Chairman Page

Additions to the Agenda: None.

Public Comment: None, however, Gerald Patch reported that he had been fielding public questions regarding Oakland's Section G and the possibility of an upright marker. Commissioners confirmed the restriction contained within the ordinance. Pine tree needles kill grass and this is a problem in many areas. Hugh Putnam reported that sometime in the future the 2.3 acre Bartley property that abuts Pine Grove may be for sale to the town for cemetery purposes.

Approval of Minutes of May 1, 2019: **Motion** made by Gerald Patch and seconded by Scott Page to approved Minutes. No discussion and unanimously voted in favor.

Nomination for Commissioner Vacancy: Commissioners reviewed the application of Cathryn Feickert to fill the vacant commissioner position until Town Meeting 2020, at which time she would have the opportunity to be elected to the position for the remainder of the term to 2023. **Motion** made by Gerald Patch and seconded by Hugh Putnam to nominate Cathryn Feickert to fill the vacant Commissioners position and to pass along the nomination to the Selectboard. No discussion and unanimously voted in favor.

First Reading of Cemetery Ordinance 2019-1 to update Cemetery Rules & Regulations: Barbara explained the details of the draft Cemetery Ordinance that had been updated in accordance with the May 1st meeting. The ordinance is without a chapter number because it has not yet been assigned through the codification process. Barbara further explained that the town attorney attempted to organize the contents of the ordinance so that it is closer to how the codification process will organize its format by articles and sections. The Commissioners reviewed the ordinance in its entirety, particularly Article III wherein the paragraphs were reorganized. Barbara pointed out one amendment made by the town attorney to Article IV paragraph (d) wherein "except for service dogs" was added to the restriction. He felt it was necessary to include this language. Discussion ensued regarding identification of a service dog vs any other dog by the requirement of "certified" in the restriction. This was considered since certified service dogs must wear a specific vest as evidence of their certification to the public.

**Motion** made by Scott Page, seconded by Gerry Patch to approve Cemetery Ordinance 2019-1 including an amendment to Article IV(d) to read: "No domesticated animals leashed or unleashed, except certified service dogs, allowed in town cemeteries" and to notice a public hearing and second reading to take place in 28 days on Wednesday, July 3, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. Discussion ensued and Barbara explained the next sequence of events in the ordinance process and that documents will be

posted 5 places in town and on the town's website. July 3<sup>rd</sup> will have both a Public Hearing and a regular Cemetery Commissioner's meeting. Motion was voted unanimously in favor.

Adjournment: **Motion** made by Hugh Putnam, seconded by Gerry Patch and unanimously approved to adjourn at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Barbara A. Courchesne*

Barbara A. Courchesne  
Cemetery Commissioner, Ex-Officio