

Cemetery Board of Commissioners  
Minutes  
July 11, 2023

Board met in session at 7:00 p.m. in the office at Waterside Cemetery.  
Present (constituting a quorum):

Richard F. Coletti, Chairman  
Janet S. Merrill, clerk  
Pam M. Peterson

Catherine M. Kobialka, Superintendent

**MINUTES:** Motion Made and seconded to approve the minutes of April 11, 2023 as presented.  
All in favor. **VOTE**

**BOARD CHAIR AND CLERK:** Motion made and seconded to appoint Richard as Chairman of the Board and Janet Merrill as Board clerk. All in favor. **VOTE**

**FY24 OUTLAYS:**

Received the forks for JD tractor  
Received tracks for JD excavator  
Grass sets have been ordered  
Jack hammer has been ordered  
Hedge trimmers have been ordered  
Garage lighting is scheduled for July 18

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**GAZEBO – VETS LOT:** Contact from Linda Maffeo President of the Elder Act Club which is a volunteer group sponsored by the Marblehead/Swampscott Rotary. They are interested in helping with repairs to the Gazebo. Superintendent is aware of that it needs attention. Discussed the new roof that was installed a few years ago and contractor input with regard to the condition of the wood structure. It will be costly and is on the prioritized list of things that are needed. All agreed that if the Elder Act Club wants to try to raise funds and take this on as a project, the Cemetery Department would be more than grateful as long as the office is kept informed before and during the project.

**SIGNS IN BURIAL AREAS:** Board became aware of a sign that has been installed at the Gun House. The sign explains the history of the documented “Negro Burying Place” at that location in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Sign appears to have some misinformation.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**GOATS AT OLD BURIAL HILL:** Board member Pam Peterson with a representative from Goats to Go. The goal was to maybe replace the grass maintenance with sheep. After walking

the site and discussing the cost and particulars, it was deemed too expensive of an undertaking. May revisit pricing for just goats to control the poison ivy.

**BROWN LOT MONUMENT:** Request received from Epoch Preservation with regard a monument in memory of Joseph and Lucretia Brown located on the James W. Fountaine lot in Waterside Cemetery. This stone is in memory only as they are believed to be interred at Old Burial Hill according to the 1873 survey of monuments done by Perley Derby - "Joseph Brown died Apr. 8, 1834, aged 85. Lucretia widow of Joseph, May 21, 1857, aged 83 years 8 months". The stone (now missing) was replaced in 1979 and now reads, "Joseph Brown died. Apr. 8, 1834, aged 85."

In April of this year, a letter was forwarded by Epoch Preservation from a distant relative of James W. Fountaine allowing the request to work on this particular monument. We have finally also received the family history we requested showing other relations to James W. Fountaine. The Board has agreed that every effort was made to find heirs that should be signing off on this work.

Motion made and seconded to accept the letter from Shannon Roach allowing Epoch Preservation to "repair and/or restore the Gravestone Marker of Joe and Lucretia Brown", subject to the following:

- Epoch Preservation to submit a request detailing the exact work to be performed.

- Standard permit fee to be waived as this is a pro-bono project.

- Project to be done between the hours of 7:00 and 3:00 Mon – Fri

- Company to check with office as to services occurring in that area.

All in favor. **VOTE**

Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM

Next meeting October 17, 2023

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Janet S. Merrill, clerk