Braintree Cemetery Commission Meeting Notes
October 9, 2024

Attendees: Nancy Burchfield (Chair), Cal Poulin
Guest: Kris Haupt
Minutes:
Nancy made a motion to call the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Cal seconded the motion.
NOTE: There was no recorder that we could find to record the meeting. The following will have to suffice.
Citizen Comments:
Kris Haupt said that access to Mann Cemetery appears to be gone. Nancy will check into this. In this context it was noted that the Selectboard has still not responded to the Commission's concerns about Thayer Brook Road eroding into Thayer Brook Cemetery.
Old Business:
The August 2024 Minutes were approved as written by unanimous vote. There was no September meeting.
Cal repaired a broken headstone in Braintree Hill Cemetery.
There were two burials in the last month. One in East Braintree Cemetery, handled by Nancy, and Cal handled a burial in Mountain View Cemetery.
We continue to find a few inconsistencies between the Town burial maps and the corresponding cemetery plots. Cal had to move a cornerstone marker to make one plot consistent with the Town records.
There was a brief discussion of the rules regarding burials. Henceforth, the person responsible for a burial will also be responsible for updating the Town records. This led to the questions of whether or not Braintree needs to have the green burial area mapped and approved by the State of Vermont. The question of whether or not caskets must be buried in a vault was raised. Nancy will look into the two questions.
New Business:
Fall cemetery clean-up will be held on Sunday, October 20 at 1:00 p.m. with Sunday, October 27 as the rain date. Commissioners please check your assigned cemeteries in the meantime to determine if they need to be raked or if there are other issues that need attention this fall or in the spring. Let Nancy know what cemeteries need to be on the clean-up list.
Veteran's Day is Monday, November 11. Commissioners need to check that the Veteran's markers are in place in their assigned cemeteries.

The Spring 2025 project list will include making more room for the existing plots at the back of Mountain View Cemetery. Cal said that he will talk with the person who pastures his cows on the other side of that border about taking down trees and brush along the property line to make room for the larger vehicles that need to drive there. It is the Commission's responsibility to have the unused cemetery property on both sides of Mountain View brush hogged in the spring and it was thought that whoever can do that can tackle the back area of the Cemetery pending approval.
The Commission discussed pricing at area cemeteries compared to what Braintree charges. Cal collected a lot of information in that regard. This valley is low in pricing relative to other areas

that Cal looked into. He also learned the following: some towns include an administrative fee in the cost of burials, some require that every plot have cornerstones, there are price differences in burials, in one case, if it is on a weekday vs. the weekend, and one town hires someone who digs all of the grave sites. Cemetery pricing, including the share of perpetual care, has not changed for at least 5 years per the last 5 Town Reports. This excepts Green Burials for which there was a price increase last year. Cal will review preceding Town Reports to see when the last price change occurred. There was also a question about whether or not other towns have a two-tiered pricing schedule for residents and non-residents. Is that necessary as the definition of each is so subjective? Further discussion is needed before the 2024 Town Report goes to press as burial prices are listed there.

The 2024 Town Report needs to include accurate pricing for cornerstones. The pricing is $270.00 for four (4) cornerstones and $342.50 for six (6) cornerstones, installed. Other items for the Cemetery Commission report will include, the number of burials in the past year, the cemeteries cleaned in 2024, the reduction of the Commission from 5 to 3 members, Seth Bent's term ending, thanks to Jason's Mowing, stone repairs in 2024 and the need for help with spring cleaning of the cemeteries.

Cal moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. Nancy seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting to be held: Wednesday, November 13, 2024.

(Note that this is the 2nd Wednesday of the month.)

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Burchfield