

**MINUTES
CEMETERY COMMISSION
MARCH 12, 2025
VINE HILLS CEMETERY OFFICE**

Committee Members present: Frank Drollett (Chairperson), Mary Aveni (Secretary), Dan Holland, Matthew Glynn

Committee Members absent: Everett Malagutti, Richard Quintal

Town Staff present: Diane Maguire, Cemetery & Crematory Superintendent, William Coyle, DPW Director, David Gould, Director of Marine & Environmental

Others: Ray Dunetz, RDLA Landscape Architecture, Diane Peck & Bruce Howard, Open Space Committee

Meeting called to order at 9:05 am. A quorum was present.

The minutes of July 31, 2024, were approved as written.

Route 80 general update –

A grant from the Veterans' Heritage Grants Program was approved with the town set to receive \$12,837.00 for the construction of an interpretative sign to be placed at the Prince Goodwin house site at the Route 80 cemetery. This is a matching grant with the town paying the same amount. A group will be selected to work on the verbiage of the sign which will incorporate the legacy of the Parting Ways veterans.

Permitting and timeframe – Ray Dunetz updated us on permitting. All permits are expected to be in place by the end of April with the possibility of Procurement receiving all materials to prepare a bid by the summer. Once selected the possibility of a late fall start is anticipated. The opening date for the cemetery is 2027. A name for the cemetery will need to be selected soon.

Route 80 trail update –

There was a lengthy discussion on the ZBA permit which has a requirement of providing pedestrian access to nearby conservation space. Committee members, Open Space Committee members and town staff all spoke with varying opinions. Some opinions were that the cemetery should not be combined with a trail as it is disruptive to those visiting and grieving at the cemetery. Issues stated were that the trail would bring noise from visitors, dogs, and in general is not something that belongs in a cemetery. It was also noted that this is deeded Cemetery Division space. Those in favor of allowing this trail state that the trail will be far enough along the border that it will not be disruptive and that the ZBA voted to require this

access. David Gould spoke to the ability of the Marine and Environmental Division to cut the trail and perhaps have funds to supply a fence.

A motion was made by Matthew Glynn to “allow a trail in the buffer zone bordering Kingston with the Department of Marine and Environment cutting the trail and putting fencing running along side the trail”. This motion was seconded by Daniel Holland. Frank Drollette and Mary Aveni voted no to the motion and Daniel Holland and Matthew Glynn voted yes. As it was a tie vote, no decision was made.

White Horse Cemetery access update – DPW staff meet with the abutters, and they informed us they would not be accepting the town’s proposal to purchase part of their property to add to the easement. Thus, a capital project in the amount of \$175,000.00 was submitted for vote at the Spring town meeting to acquire funds to build an easement on property previously identified as such.

Cedarville Cemetery update – Matthew Glynn updated on the wall and stairs project that his family gifted the town. The project is nearly complete.

Memorial Stone on Burial Hill – the Plymouth Police Department and the Friends of Burial Hill have been working to coordinate a memorial stone on Burial Hill for Captain Josiah Bartlett, a police officer killed in the line of duty in 1875. While evidence supports that Captain Bartlett is buried on Burial with his wife, Elizabeth, and infant son, Charles, there is no marker in place. The Cemetery Division supports this effort.

Cannon replica installation on Burial Hill – a date of Saturday, May 31st, 2025, has been set for a ceremony honoring the placement of this cannon replica in the cannon surround on Burial Hill. The Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, the Plymouth Guard and the Pilgrim Hall Museum (where the cannon has been residing since COVID) will be hosting this ceremony.

There was no public comment.

The date of Wednesday, April 9, 2024 @ 9:00 am at the Vine Hills Cemetery & Crematory Office was selected for the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.