

TOWN OF TRURO CEMETERY COMMISSION

Meeting: Cemetery Commission (CC)
Date: September 28, 2021
Location: Truro Library Patio
In Attendance: Bob Masson and Holly Ballard-Gardner, Commissioners,
and John Dundas, Select Board Liaison
Absent: Liz Haskell, Commissioner

Called to order at 10:05 a.m.

1. Election of officers

Holly Ballard-Gardner nominated Bob Masson for Chairman-Treasurer. Nomination called once, twice, elected. Masson nominated Ballard-Gardner for Secretary. Nomination called once, twice, elected.

2. Meeting minutes

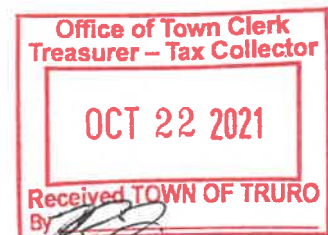
Because only one Commissioner was present who had also been present at the last meeting (in 2019) the minutes were not put forward for approval. Masson noted the Town office could not locate their copy of those minutes but by way of replacement, Masson procured the CC copy from the file cabinet at Town Hall. (Three copies of CC meeting minutes are prepared: one to the CC file, one to the Town office upstairs, one signed for the Town Clerk.)

3. Recent events

Since Jan/ Feb 2020 there were 36 burial and sold approximately 16 lots. CC activity continued uninterrupted even in absence of formal meetings due to the pandemic.

4. Activity Report for 2020

- a) For the year ending Dec 31, 2020 (2020 report) - Due to the pandemic, plot owners have chosen to postpone or forgo a ceremony. Of non-Truro burials there are 9 unresolved for 2020 (deceased but not buried).
- b) The greatest asset that Masson and the Commission have received is the addition of new Commissioner Ballard-Gardner. For 24 years, Masson has managed the operations alone, with the endorsement of the CC and Town. Now there is a team working together. Ballard-Gardner is responsible for selling plots. Masson for issuing burial permits and managing data. Masson points out the physical and time requirements of the plot selling role. Dundas pointed out it is not unusual for someone to want to spend a lot of time selecting a lot for a loved one. Masson concurred but noted the Commissioners must be efficient in the carrying out of duties.
- c) Masson defined "Additional Names" on the report. These are those who bought a plot in past and wish to add names.



- d) In January Masson meets with the Town (Noelle Scoullar) and provides a yearly report on Veteran graves to be put into the Town system. The CC adds a Veteran marker when a burial occurs.

Ballard-Gardner made a motion to accept the 2020 Activity Report. Masson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All in favor. The 2020 Activity Report was accepted and put into the record.

5. Activity Report for 2021 YTD

- a) Masson reported that August was busy. Typically, there are two to three standard burials and the rest are cremation burials. At one time, the busy period was June. Now it's at tail end of summer, making August and September the busy period.

Ballard-Gardner made a motion to accept the 2021 YTD Activity Report. Masson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All in favor. The 2021 YTD Activity Report was accepted and put into the record.

5. New business

Masson reports having received contact information for a new gravedigger. The previous one has retired, although funeral directors have their own gravediggers.

John Dundas asked what the CC needed from the Town. Masson indicated there were no needs at the current moment, that the Commission had all business under control. Masson mentioned that if Liz Haskell wished to resign, the Commission would need a new Commissioner who is committed to staying the duration.

Masson pointed out he has invested 24 years, spending 350 hours to computerize the cemetery data, and his firm intent is that someone continue the efficient management of the Commission, noting that Ballard-Gardner is more than capable. Dundas concurred that the Town also wants continuity.

Ballard-Gardner made a motion to adjourn. Masson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25am.

Next meeting is the 3rd Tuesday of October at 10:00am, in the Town Hall Offices.

Respectfully submitted by Holly Ballard-Gardner, *Secretary*.

