

Truro Cemetery Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2022
Truro Town Hall

Present: Bob Masson, *Cemetery Commission*
Holly Ballard-Gardner, *Cemetery Commission*
Liz Haskell, *Cemetery Commission*

Called to order at: 8:57 am

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 17 meeting were reviewed. (There was no December meeting.) Mr. Masson motioned to accept. Mrs. Haskell seconded. All in favor. The November 17, 2021 minutes were accepted and placed into the record. (One copy to Cemetery Commission file, one to Noelle Scoullar.)

Announcements

Mr. Masson welcomed Mrs. Haskell back. She said she was doing well and glad to be back.

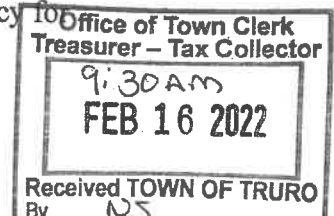
Activity Report

Mr. Masson presented the activity report as of December 31, 2021. This is the official 2021 report. (The year-end statistics and financial reports will be given at the February meeting.) During 2021, 30 burials occurred, which is 50% higher than the 60-year average of 20 burials per year. Mr. Masson pointed out that Ms. Ballard-Gardner sold 42 lots in the New South Cemetery in 2021. Ms. Ballard-Gardner motioned to accept the 2021 Activity Report. Mrs. Haskell seconded. All in favor, passed. The report was placed into the record.

New Business

Pine Grove Cemetery road

Mr. Masson raised the issue of the town road leading into Pine Grove Cemetery. It is currently not passable due to deferred maintenance. Mr. Masson and Ms. Ballard-Gardner have independently contacted the DPW Director several times, beginning last summer, and were informed that the road would no longer be repaired on request, but only on a quarterly basis. When the Commission pointed out that several quarters had elapsed since DPW was first notified of the need for repair to the Pine Grove and New South Cemetery roads, DPW was unable to commit to a repair timetable. Due to a scheduled burial at Pine Grove, the Commission notified DPW the road repair was now urgent. The Commission requested the assistance of its Select Board liaison John Dundas who contacted DPW as well. Mr. Masson pointed out that if the road is not repaired prior to the upcoming burial, the Commission will be compelled to make an announcement that all burials are suspended until repairs are made to the town road. As the problem is both acute and long-term, Ms. Ballard-Gardner made a motion that the Commission request DPW and the Town Manager advise the Commission of the official policy for



maintenance of the town roads in and to cemeteries. Mrs. Haskell seconded, all in favor, passed. The Commission will send a memo to DPW before the end of the month.

Town government responsiveness

Mr. Masson noted for the record, having been Cemetery Commissioner for the past 25 years, that Truro has always been a town where everyone knew your name and when you made requests of town government, things were done. Now, in his opinion, the Town of Truro appears to have adopted the complexity and bureaucracy of a city.

Landscaper's insurance

Mr. Masson raised the issue of grass-cutting at the Congregational Cemetery. Their bookkeeper requested information on the landscaper's insurance. Mr. Masson provided the contact information for Doug Cox at Unlimited Landscape. Mr. Masson reminded the Commission that this vendor was the lowest cost provider for these services.

Adjournment

Mr. Masson moved for adjournment at 9:22 am. Ms. Ballard-Gardner seconded, all in favor. Adjourned at 9:22.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 9:00 am, Town Hall.

Robert L. Masson

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Ballard-Gardner
Holly Ballard-Gardner, Secretary

Elizabeth D. Haskell

