



TRUSTEES OF CEMETERIES

MASSACHUSETTS

City of Malden

150 FOREST STREET MALDEN, MA 02148
781-322-2360

James Tuxbury, Chairman
Sheila Fermano, Secretary
Joseph Barriss, Trustee
Vincent Miraglia, Trustee
William Settemio, Trustee

February 28, 2023

MEETING MINUTES OF: February 27, 2023

A meeting of the Cemetery Board of Trustees was held the Forest Dale Cemetery, 150 Forest Street, Malden on the above date, in accordance with the Notice of Meeting, as provided in G.L. c.30A, §§ 18-25. Notice was filed with the City Clerk's Office, City of Malden.

Chairman James Tuxbury called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

Members present were Vincent Miraglia, James Tuxbury, Joseph Barriss and Sheila Fermano. (William Settemio was absent.) Superintendent Christopher Rosa also attended the meeting.

The minutes of the January 18, 2023 meeting were read and upon the motion of Vincent Miraglia and seconded by Joseph Barriss, the Board voted to accept the minutes as read; all were in favor. **CARRIED**

CORRESPONDENCE: President Tuxbury said he had received a ruling from Assistant Solicitor Alicia MacNeil from the Legal Department regarding the responsibility of the Trustees to vote on which investment firm would be hired to manage funds for Cemetery assets. Assistant MacNeil said the Trustees of the Cemetery did have the authority to vote on which firm would be selected to invest the funds appropriated to the Trustees of Cemeteries.

Superintendent Rosa said he had received emails regarding people searching for relatives in the cemetery and had responded to all parties; he said he also addressed the issue of broken branches brought to his attention by a resident with a drone report on the problem and all had been removed.

Trustee Miraglia said he received correspondence that a resident was going to present a request for funds from the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to repair and rebuild the wall located at the pond. The Superintendent said he had received notification from Councillor Murphy that this resident would prepare the necessary paperwork for the CPC requesting these funds as the Trustees were not allowed to do so.

TRUST REPORT: The Trust/Treasurer Report was read by Superintendent Chris Rosa. The Cemetery Trust received income for the month of January in the amount of \$14,801.90 for Perpetual Care and \$98.72 for Specific Perpetual Care for a total of \$14,900.62. This money was turned over to the Treasurer's office to be added to the Cemetery Trust accounts. Upon the motion of Sheila Fermano and seconded by Vincent Miraglia, the Board voted to accept the Trust Report as read; all were in favor. **CARRIED**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: The Superintendent's report was received by the Trustees and was read by Superintendent Rosa. Burials for the month of January were as follows: one (1) Veteran's cremains, two (2) existing cremains, one (1) new niche, three (3) existing full lot burials and one (1) new two-grave lot for a total of eight (8) burials.

- Superintendent Rosa said the new grave decorating plan is almost complete and he will consolidate research on this subject with Trustee Fermano.
- He said flowers were ordered for the spring and should arrive first week of May.

- He said the pond has a water issue and had been drained; this project took two weeks and he was given great assistance by the Water Department.
- Superintendent Rosa said illegal dumping has become more frequent and new cameras have been installed.
- The new memorials that are being planned for the Forest Dale (in the Veteran section), Bell Rock Cemetery (Black Revolutionary Soldiers) and a dedication of the gazebo in honor of Ann Madigan are in progress; all landscape bids have come in and will be awarded soon. He also said he had reiterated to the Library Director the Cemetery had several rocks for her to choose from to place a plaque on for the dedication of the Black Revolutionary Soldiers at Bell Rock Cemetery, thus matching the one currently in place.
- The Master Plan for new burial lots is an ongoing process.
- Twenty (20) dead/dangerous trees have been removed and twenty-two (22) trees had been pruned. The Superintendent said sixteen (16) new trees are planned for Arbor Day.
- In addition, the Superintendent said someone had tapped Maple trees in the cemetery and he was currently addressing this issue.

Motion was made by Vincent Miraglia and seconded by Joseph Barris to accept the Superintendent's Report; all were in favor. **CARRIED**

DISCUSSION ON NICHE LOTTERY: President Tuxbury informed the Trustees that he had been discussing the Lottery proposal with Trustee Fermano and she had prepared a draft of an ad to be approved by the Board this evening. Once approved, Ms. Fermano will present it to the Mayor's office for publication. He was hoping to advertise the Lottery by mid/late March/early April with an entry deadline of April 30, 2023, and the drawing held around the first week of June. President Tuxbury said applicants would be vetted by the Cemetery Superintendent and his Secretary prior to the drawing to ensure all applicant met the eligibility requirements. Much discussion ensued regarding the number of potential applicants, what to do if less than twenty-five applied or if more than twenty-five applied, and if those currently owning a gravesite would be eligible to participate in the Lottery. President Tuxbury did not want to make the process too complicated but rather wanted consistency and felt priority should not be given one way or another; he wanted a level playing field with equal opportunity for all those who met the requirements. The Trustees agreed. In addition, Ms. Fermano said she will contact Eastern Bank and Metro Credit Union to inquire about partnering for potential low interest loans for purchasing the niches. All Trustees agreed payment should be received within thirty (30) days of the administration of the Lottery process.

Motion to approve Lottery ad was made by Vincent Miraglia and seconded by Sheila Fermano; all were in favor. **CARRIED**

GENERAL CEMETERY BUSINESS: (All current matters had been addressed.)

Next meeting of the Board of Trustees: The next meeting of the Cemetery Board of Trustees will be held on March 17, 2023, at 5:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT: All business before the Board of Trustees having been completed and upon motion of Vincent Miraglia and seconded by Joseph Barriss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Sheila Fermano, Secretary