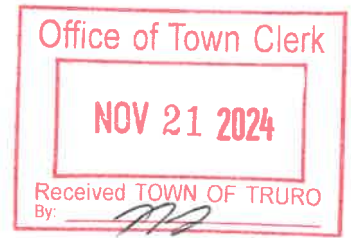


Truro Cemetery Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 30, 2024
Truro Town Hall



Present: Bob Masson, *Cemetery Commission*
Holly Ballard-Gardner, *Cemetery Commission*
John Dundas, *Cemetery Commission*
Sue Areson, *Select Board Liaison*
Thomas Roda
Ken Dutra
Ginny Dutra

Called to order at: 9:00 am

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 21, 2024 were reviewed. Mr. Masson motioned to accept, Ms. Gardner seconded, all in favor. Minutes signed and passed into the record.

Activity Report

Mr. Masson presented the activity report and noted a lot of activity in August, that the timing of cemetery activity has shifted from early summer to late summer. Seven burials occurred with another coming shortly on November 4 at Pine Grove. The Commission sold five new plots in August. There was a problem with the Cassill burial at Sacred Heart. Nickerson dug the grave prior to requesting a burial permit from the Commission. The Commission will remind gravediggers to request a permit prior to digging in order to confirm the grave location and capacity. Ms. Gardner motioned to approve, Mr. Dundas seconded, all in favor.

Public Comment

Mr. and Mrs. Dutra deferred their comment to the agenda item relating to their request.

Old Business

Ms. Gardner gave an update on the gravestone repair project funded by a CPC grant. Contractor John Fougere has completed the Snow, Methodist, Pine Grove and Old North cemeteries and is doing a QC survey to identify remaining stones in need of more minor repairs, which he will complete prior to November 15 at which point the project will be complete.

Ms. Gardner stated the Commission's intention to develop more detailed guidelines for green burials. Mr. Masson wants a funeral home to be required. Mr. Dundas suggested further discussion. Ms. Gardner will research and draft possible guidelines for review in early 2025.

New Business

Jonathan Sperber who recently purchased a half plot (O-6A) in the Natural Burial section of Old North Cemetery for \$2,000 requested via email that the Commission buy back his plot. Mr. Masson noted that Mr. Sperber does not specify a reason. As Mr. Sperber was not present as expected, he was not available to clarify. Mr. Masson stated the Commission's general policy is to make a record of plot owners wishing to sell their plots and make them available to future

buyers who contact the Commission. The repurchase of a plot would require Town money and the approval at Town meeting, an involved and time-consuming process reserved for situations of hardship. Mr. Masson motioned that the Commission deny Mr. Sperber's request and his plot be made available for re-sale. Mr. Dundas seconded the motion. All in favor.

Ken and Ginny Dutra own a plot at Old North Cemetery (Section E plot 7B) purchased prior to the installation of the Natural Burial section. They made a request to the Commission that they be able to use their plot for green burial and if not, to exchange their plot for a comparable plot in the Natural Burial section. Mr. Masson offered a swap. Mr. and Mrs. Dutra were present and when questioned said they would rather use their existing plot rather do a swap. Ms. Gardner pointed out that over half of the burials at Old North are already "green" as they occurred prior to embalming and the requirement for a vault. Mr. Dundas proposed the Commission consider the Dutra's request further, do some research, pointing out it will likely not be the only of such requests as the popularity of green burial grows. The Commission agreed to consider the request further and put it on the January agenda.

Ms. Gardner said the Commission's application to the CPC for a grant to develop and open the New South Cemetery expansion area as a dedicated green burial cemetery was to be submitted Nov 1. Ms. Areson asked if we had discussed the project with Jarrod Cabral and Ms. Gardner said she intended to email the proposal for his review. Ms. Areson suggested we get support from the Town since the project involves Town property.

Ms. Gardner motioned for adjournment at 9:28am. Seconded by Mr. Masson. Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Holly Ballard-Gardner, *Secretary*

Bob Masson, *Treasurer*