

Truro Cemetery Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
May 17, 2023  
Truro Town Hall



Present: Bob Masson, *Cemetery Commission (Treasurer & Recordkeeping)*  
Holly Ballard-Gardner, *Cemetery Commission (Chairwoman & Secretary)*  
Frank Grande, *Cemetery Commission*  
Jonathan Sperber, *Citizen*

Called to order at: 9:00 am

Mr. Masson announced that following a Town election it is required to re-elect commission officers. He accepts the nomination for Ms. Gardner, recently re-elected to the Commission, to continue as Chair and Secretary. Mr. Grande seconded the nomination. All in favor. Ms. Gardner nominated Mr. Masson to Treasurer and Recordkeeper and Mr. Grande as Member-at-Large. Mr. Grande seconded and all in favor.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the April 19, 2023 meeting were presented and reviewed. Mr. Masson motioned to accept them; Mr. Grande seconded. All in favor. The prior meeting's minutes were accepted and placed into the record. (One copy to Cemetery Commission file, one to Noelle Scoullar.)

#### **Activity Report**

Mr. Masson presented April's Activity Report. There was one new name, Nancy Tarvers, for whom we have no date of burial. We sold three lots to Sebastian Snow at New South Cemetery. Ms. Gardner motioned to accept the Report. Mr. Grande seconded. All in favor.

Mr. Masson, as Treasurer, reported that in May we usually require two grass cuttings but due to the lack of rain there was only one, saving us money. Mr. Masson said the priest at OLOL had requested directly to the landscaper (Doug Cox) to discontinue mowing at the Sacred Heart cemetery but this is not acceptable, to not maintain that cemetery to the Town standards. Sacred Heart belongs to the Catholic parish, but the Commission manages the grounds on their behalf (Sacred Heart and Congregational get their own bills for grass cutting). There are Truro residents who are buried there and visit the cemetery. Each grass cutting costs \$900. The Commission has sufficient funds for four grass cuttings per season (for all 7 cemeteries). The funds come from lots sales - Any lot sale, half goes into perpetual care fund. Mr. Masson proposed we get permission to cut the Sacred Heart at our expense. Ms. Gardner motioned that we get permission and pay to cut the grass at Sacred Heart. Mr. Grande seconded. All in favor. Ms. Gardner will call Fr. Hamel to discuss and receive permission to mow.

#### **Public Comment**

Jonathan Sperber thanked the Commission for all its work bringing green burial to Truro. Mr. Sperber believes what is very much needed in the new green burial section of Old North to improve the area is the addition of a row of (matching) cherry trees along the fences to bring in

some more green – a lot of the area is bare dirt. Mr. Sperber finds it confusing using the cornerbounds in the established section because some of the letters on the cornerbounds don't match the names on the gravestones. His suggestion for the green burial section is to consider the possibility of having cornermarkers that reflect the survey plot numbers: e.g. P-1 or O-6, which is done in many cemeteries. It also might be a nice idea to have a low visual impact sign or marker to inform people of the nature of the green burial section. Mr. Sperber sent Ms. Gardner an article of ideas. The title "Natural Burial Preserve" might follow local aesthetics as a wood sign, carved or painted, that you find so often in the area. Mr. Sperber is purchasing the inaugural plot in the green burial section at Old North.

### **Old Business**

It was agreed that regarding dogs in cemeteries, no action need be taken. The current rules are working.

Ms. Gardner will retrieve the Veteran markers from DPW to replace missing ones that have been reported.

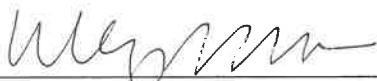
### **New Business**

No new business

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Gardner motioned for adjournment at 9:30am noting the next meeting is to be June 21, 2023. Mr. Masson seconded. Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

  
 Holly Ballard-Gardner, *Secretary*

  
 Bob Masson, *Treasurer*

