

Brattleboro Cemetery Committee  
July 21, 2015  
Morningside Cemetery/Town Clerk's Office

A meeting of the Brattleboro Cemetery Committee was convened at 5:15 PM by Chair Marshall Wheelock near the flagpole and mausoleum in Morningside Cemetery. Members present were: Debra Collins, Edna Fletcher, Jane Fletcher, Jackie Stromberg, Marshall Wheelock, and Annette Cappy. Absent with regrets: Judith Price.

A tour of the mausoleum's interior at Morningside Cemetery was conducted. The mausoleum was erected in 1900 and contains 42 catacombs. It was originally designed as temporary storage for the deceased and as a chapel. The building has not been in use for several years and is in such disrepair that it could not be used without massive repairs. It was noted that the metal ceiling was collapsing in several areas, with the metal hanging from portions of the ceiling in sheets. With so many holes in the ceiling members were able to see up into the rafters and in some areas out to the daylight through holes in the roof.

The group again viewed the area surrounding the flagpole, this time with a newly plotted out map of the proposed lots. The map was designed by member Jane Fletcher.

The meeting recessed at 5:38 pm and reconvened in the town clerk's office at 5:52 pm.

Jane Fletcher moved to approve the minutes of the June 30 meeting. The motion was seconded by Jackie Stromberg. It was noted in the minutes that three urns of cremains would be allowed in the proposed Walsh section when in fact, the committee had agreed to two. The minutes, as corrected, were unanimously approved.

The meeting then took up discussion of the Walsh Section to further study the new diagram. On motion of Jackie Stromberg and seconded by Debra Collins. The meeting unanimously voted in favor of the following:

- All lots were to be sectioned out into spaces 40 inches by 5 feet.
- The first four lots surrounding the flagpole would be left vacant as common area, with perhaps plantings in the future.
- All lots would be numbered in quadrants from the pole to the outer edges of the grass space.
- Lots would be sold beginning from the pole and sold in numbered order.

It was learned that several surrounding towns require an 'opening fee', paid to the town, each time a burial occurs. Fees range from \$100 to \$265 in the area. Fees covered the time and trips to the cemetery to stake out the space to be uncovered and also record keeping of each burial. Edna Fletcher moved that the Town of Brattleboro initiate an opening fee of \$100 for all burials, including the burial of cremains. The motion was seconded by Jane Fletcher and unanimously adopted.

The committee then discussed the creation of a section of Morningside Cemetery to be set aside for the purpose of burying indigent residents of the town. Various options were mentioned but the committee unanimously adopted the following:

- An existing section of Morningside Cemetery known as Maplewood would be designated for the burial of indigent residents of the town.
- Burial of cremains only would be allowed.
- In the event that the family of a resident lacked funds to purchase a plot, the town would not charge a fee.
- The Town would not be responsible for the cost of a marker.
- The Town's responsibility would be consistent with Vermont State Statute.

Jane Fletcher expressed concern regarding an inquiry that had been made with regard to establishing an eternal flame at a recent burial site. The committee was in agreement that combustible flames were inappropriate and a danger in a cemetery and unanimously adopted the following:

- A single solar powered light would be permitted on a gravesite
- The light must be placed in the same allowed space available for plantings on the lot
- The light shall be no more than 12 inches in height.
- Any glass on the fixture is strictly prohibited.

Other topics discussed primarily pertaining to Morningside Cemetery:

- Parks and Recreation Department seek estimates for the repair of the mausoleum roof. Estimates of replacement are on file. However, estimates for repair have not been conducted.
- The committee would like to meet with new Town Manager Peter Elwell to discuss cemetery issues and to inspect the mausoleum at Morningside Cemetery. Possibly tour all town cemeteries.
- Meet with police to discuss unauthorized activity in Morningside Cemetery and request increased police presence in cemeteries.
- Repairing locks and create barriers to unauthorized points of access into Morningside.
- Increase road and foliage maintenance

At 7:18 PM, with no other business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned until the next meeting scheduled for Monday, August 17 at 5:15 p.m. in the Town Clerk's office.