

Brattleboro Cemetery Committee
Friday, January 17, 2020
Municipal Center
Town Clerks Office
10:06 – 10:40 AM

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Brattleboro Cemetery Committee is established for the purpose of advising the Selectboard in matters of care and maintenance of all Town owned cemeteries.

It establishes policies, rules and regulations for operation of the cemeteries; sets prices for services provided; lays out plots, drives and paths and prices for burial plots. No policy making decision of the Committee is valid unless approved by the Selectboard.

Minutes

1. The meeting was convened at 10:06am; Brian Bannon called the meeting to order; Committee members Brian Bannon, Jane Fletcher, Jackie Stromberg, Ray Doyle, Karen Kale, and staff member Hilary Francis were present.
2. Minutes of November 15, 2019, Jane moved, Ray seconded. Passed
3. Public Comment: No members of the public were present.
4. Upon further review, additional editing is needed to the changes in the cemetery ordinance. Carol Lolatte has no objections to the proposed changes; Bob Fisher, Town Attorney, is still investigating the legality of time leases with the intent to reuse the burial location after a specified number of years. State cemetery organizations meet in May; Jane will attend and see if other cemeteries are doing anything like this. The committee will then send the rewritten ordinance amendment to the Selectboard.
5. The Recreation and Parks Department is willing to have a tarp put over the Mausoleum roof as a temporary solution to the ongoing problem. Ray will investigate the possibilities and cost. Jane will continue trying to contact an expert for an estimate of the overall damage being done to the building due to the hole in the roof. There was a lengthy discussion of just what the Town's responsibility is in regard to cemetery maintenance.
6. The Tree Committee has looked at some of the trees in the cemetery – specifically the ash trees in relation to emerald ash borer damage. It was suggested that the Cemetery Committee send a letter to the Tree Committee to formalize our concerns about the cemetery trees. This led to discussion of potential pros and cons.
7. At the next meeting, on April 17th at 10am, the committee will revisit these topics and the issue of homeless camping in Town with relation to the cemeteries.

At 10:40 Jane moved and Ray seconded that the meeting adjourn. Passed unanimously.