

**TOWN OF LUDLOW
BOARD OF CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS**

**REGULAR MEETING
HOWARD BARTON, JR. CONFERENCE ROOM**

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Board Members Present:

Bob Brandt
Scott Baitz

Shannon Barton
Lou Gabranski

Bruce Schmidt

Staff Present:

Brendan McNamara

Doug Sheehan

1. Call to Order

- A. Bob Brandt called the meeting at 5:01.

2. Consideration of Changes, Additions or Removal to the Agenda

- A. Brendan McNamara said that there will not be an Executive Session

3. Comments from Citizens

- A. Louie Gabranski said that a week or so ago, the back gate was closed and wondered why.
B. Doug Sheehan said they were leveling the road and probably forgot to open it up again.

4. Sexton's Report

- A. Doug Sheehan said that at the last meeting, the Commissioners had started discussions about Green Burials. He included the following in the Sexton's Report
- i. Several cemeteries in Vermont have Green Burials
 - ii. Some have "hybrid" burials where they do both green and regular burials
 - iii. Some cemeteries have separate sections for green burials
 - iv. Some cemeteries have green and regular burials side by side
 - v. Some people are "dead set" against green burials
- B. Bob Brandt said that he has also been researching them online.
C. Doug Sheehan said some put a "tipped over vault over the body."
D. Shannon Stark asked about any problems with animals trying to dig up the body.
E. Doug Sheehan said they put manure on top, but also dig down a minimum of 4 feet.
F. Shannon Stark asked about separate sections.
G. Doug Sheehan said some other cemeteries have separate sections, while other have them side-by-side.
H. Brendan McNamara said they would have to have regulations concerning them
I. Scott Baitz asked the downside?
J. Brendan McNamara said there are traditional people and that public perception is that "they are not regular."
K. Bruce Schmidt asked, without wood or concrete, is there more settling
L. Doug Sheehan said in the old part of the cemetery, they used pine boxes

- M. Bruce Schmidt suggested that the commission hold a public hearing if we are going to change the regulations. He said he does not think we should require concrete vaults. He said most people have caskets and costs for burials could be up to \$10,000. Would we adjust our plot rates, there is nothing different on our end.
- N. Bob Brandt said the plot rates should be the same, whether regular or green burial.
- O. Doug Sheehan said there is sinking because they put in street sweepings and no rocks.
- P. Bruce Schmidt said there should be rocks
- Q. Shannon Stark asked if the bodies are wrapped.
- R. Bruce Schmidt said yes, in shrouds.

5. Buildings & Grounds Report

- A. There were no specific comments on the Buildings and Grounds report.

6. Projects Update

- A. Brendan McNamara advised the following
 - i. Road paving was completed today and looks good
 - ii. Split rail fence was installed in the back and looks good – they have left it natural
 - iii. Within the next week, Kevin Mac Pherson will install the signs

7. New Business

- A. Town Manager Updates
 - i. Brendan McNamara the Cemetery looks good for Memorial Day

8. Other Business

- A. Recognition of Herb Van Guilder
 - i. Bruce Schmidt suggested that the burial for Herb Van Guilder is scheduled for June 8th and he thinks that the Commissioners should do something at the Cemetery, possibly large flowers or a contribution or a sign with his picture with words of thanks. We don't want to rush. It seems odd/off not to do anything; we should do something.
 - ii. Louie Gabranski suggested engraving his name at the entrance where the other names are.
 - iii. Bruce Schmidt said that we need to do something bigger down the road (time)
 - iv. Doug Sheehan said that the family is handling the services
 - v. Shannon Stark suggested a banner with thanks to Herb printed on it.
 - vi. Bruce Schmidt said that later, we can do something else. He said a sign may be awkward at the funeral
 - vii. Shannon Stark suggested a bench
 - viii. Bob Brandt said it would be nice to have something at the funeral
 - ix. Brendan McNamara said they could have a plaque made to give the family at the funeral that they could either leave with cemetery or must keep with them

- x. Bruce Schmidt said possibly an easel with a sign and Herb's picture – thanking him for his years of service to the cemetery – we need to find out the number of years. He asked if the family would be OK with either Brendan McNamara or Bob Brandt saying something.
- xi. Brendan McNamara said that he and Doug Sheehan will reach out to the family.
- xii. Bob Brandt suggested getting a card and have all commissioners sign it.
- xiii. There was consensus from the board to do something.
- xiv. Doug Sheehan said he will reach out to Sandra Van Guilder and ask if someone from the commission could speak.
- xv. Brendan McNamara agreed that the commission should think about something more permanent to do in a couple of months.
- xvi. Doug Sheehan suggested a plaque at the office.
- xvii. Bruce Schmidt suggested the “Herbert Van Guilder Flag Station” with a sign parallel to the road where people can see it.
- xviii. Doug Sheehan said possibly something at the circle in front of the tomb.
- xix. Bob Brandt said to put this on the agenda for their next meeting and for board members to bring in ideas.
- xx. Shannon Stark asked what they will do for June 8th.
- xxi. Bruce Schmidt suggested having Bob Brandt, Brendan McNamara and Doug Sheehan make the decision for the 8th.

B. Minutes from April 24, 2024

- i. Scott Baitz noted that item 5C read “Scott Baitz said that his family, the Hazen's have been here since the 1850's – they have 4 generations here.” The correct family name is “Hesselton.”
- ii. Lisha Klaiber said she will make the change and asked that “Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting” be included on the agenda for upcoming meeting.

9. **Set Date for Next Meeting**

- A. Next regular meeting - Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
- B. Brendan McNamara said he will be away.
- C. Next regular Meeting will be Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

10. **Sign Warrant Orders**

- A. The warrant orders have been signed.

11. **Possible Executive Session/Personnel/Contracts/Legal Issues**

- A. Brendan McNamara said an Executive Session is not needed.

12. **Adjourn**

- A. **MOTION by Shannon Stark and seconded Scott Baitz to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.**
- B. Meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

Bob Brandt, Chairman

Bruce Schmidt

Scott Baitz

Shannon Stark

Louie Gabranski