Town of Norton Cemetery Commission Report of Meeting July 11, 2018

NORTON TOWN CLERK



Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Norton Highway Department
70 Rear East Main Street, Norton MA

Members Present: Chairman Daniel Rich, Mary Ellen Stentiford, Robert Kimble, Joyce Bernardo, Joseph Oliveri.

Others Attending: Keith Silver, Highway Superintendent,

Bill Watson, Cemetery Superintendent

Thomas Daly, Cemetery Helpful Solutions Consulting Group (CHS)

Daniel Rich opened meeting by thanking the Commission for co-operation with the burial of Bryce DeRosier on July 2, 2018.

New Business: Election of Officers

Daniel Rich, Chairman Joseph Oliveri, Secretary

Rules and Regulations (R & R): Thomas Daly, CHS Group was asked by David Crispin of BSC Group to assume the task of reviewing our R & R. Mr Crispin opined that the CHS Group had more experience in this matter. Mr Daly introduced himself as having more than 50 years experience in the establishment and management of cemeteries throughout New England and the nation. He is located in Westwood, MA.

Mr Daly believes that any town's R&R should be structured in a manner that protects the town from liability. Although it is impossible to predict every circumstance that might arise, the Cemetery Commission should review and amend the R&R annually to address the advancement of technology. Mr Daly understands the emotional side of death, but believes that the R&R governing burials, license holders and maintenance of cemeteries should be considered and operated as a business. All license holders should be given a copy of the R&R.

Mr Daly indicated that the latest copy of the R&R found online in the town's website and dated as 1992 is outdated and wholly insufficient. Even though the Cemetery Commission has since rewritten the R&R, they have not been posted online. Bob Kimble indicated that he would endeavor to remove the current online version and will post the new R&R once our revision is completed.

Mr. Daly also questioned the Commission's ability to enforce any R&R. which led to a discussion about enforcement. Who has the power of enforcement? Is it spelled out in the R&R? What should be the procedure of enforcement? is there a central data bank to store burial records? Will the power of enforcement apply to all Norton cemeteries or just to the Newland Cemetery? Who has the power to approve any R&R document produced by the Cemetery Commission - Board of Selectmen? Highway Superintendent? Town Meeting? These questions need to be answered and stipulated in the R&R document.

The matter of financing Mr. Daly remained an open issue. During the meeting dated June 6, 2018, the Cemetery Commission agreed to pay a fee of \$2,500.00 to Mr. Crispin for consultation on an update of the R&R. Mr. Crispin, in turn, contacted Bob Kimble indicating that Mr. Daly had more experience in this field and was, therefore, a more appropriate person at accomplishing this task. Bob Kimble and Mr Daly agreed to contact David Crispin to resolve the issue. Mr Daly did, however, indicate that the \$2,500.00 was a low figure if CHS was asked to take on further responsibilities. Daniel Rich summarized the day's discussions and asked that the meeting conclude with

the understanding that the Cemetery Commission would do the actual work of revamping the R&R. We would determine if further consultation with CHS was necessary. Mr. Daly agreed with the procedure.

The commission thought a series of workshops would be an appropriate venue to review and write a new set of R&R.

The first workshop is scheduled for August 6, 2018 in the office of Daniel Rich on East Main Street, Norton at 2 PM. The meeting adjourned @ 5:22 PM.

	Josef Olivai
	Joseph Oliveri, Secretary
Approved:	
Chail whe	8/6/18
Daniel Rich, Chairman	Date
Jayce Bernardo	8/6/18
Jøyce Bernardo	Date
JOA W Moleculy	8/6/18
Robert Kimble	Date
May El State	8/6/8
Mary Ellen Stentiford	Date