

Cemetery Commission
Minutes of Meeting – October 25, 2023 – 3:15 PM
Cemetery Commission

In attendance: Walter Atwood – (Chair)
Marilyn Bisiewicz
Stephen Bannon
William B

1. Meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes for July 26, 2023

Marilyn – approved as written
Stephen Bannon – second
Unanimously approved – Motion passed

OLD BUSINESS:

A. There has been many complaints regarding owners not picking up after their dogs waste. The Dog Warden Shep Evans was in attendance. There are 265 licensed dogs in the Town of Great Barrington.

The warden stated, “He does stop at the cemeteries and has noticed owners walking dogs with leashes and also very few times there are dogs unleashed”. It does look like some dog owners are not picking up after their dogs and he does confront the owners if the dog is unleashed. Random patrolling will happen in the future to see who is not picking up after their dog. The dog warden will issue a fine if necessary.

A suggestion was made to enforce a fine if it is noticed, cameras in the Cemeteries or more signage. It is hard to fully enforce because the owner not leashing their dogs are walking them sporadic. Blue Hill Avenue has been an area where dogs are unleashed. Concerned that the dogs unleashed can get hit by a car. The Commission thanked the Dog warden for his diligence on this issue.

Press Release will be sent out to the public regarding picking up after your dog and unleashed Dogs in the cemeteries.

B. Discussion on designated parking areas. Parking has become an issue in the Cemeteries. Vehicles parking on graves and in the way of other visitors. Visitors are using the cemeteries to walk, jog, recreational parking not necessarily visiting their loved ones. Designated parking areas are under discussion for Elmwood and Green lawn Cemetery. The Cemetery Commission members think it is a good idea and asked DPW to present a draft and develop signage to bring back for presentation.

C. Brief discussion regarding cameras in the cemetery to alleviate ongoing dog issues, not at this time.

D. Cemetery Consultant will review roads to be removed in cemeteries, signage and Fee's. No report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS - NONE

OTHER BUSINESS/UPDATES: None

CITIZEN SPEAK: None

MEDIA TIME: None

Meeting Adjourned at 3:30 PM

Minutes taken and Submitted by Lisa Richards