

**HOPE CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 20, 2011**

Meeting began 4:07PM

Meeting ended 5:48PM

Attendance:

William Wallace – Chairman
William Bombard – Commission Member
Richard Perry – Commission Member
Matthew Curewitz – Commission Member
Nicole Apostola – Commission Member
Robert C Antonelli Jr – Assistant Commissioner
Stephanie Choquette – Principal Clerk

Motion to accept last meeting's minutes: William Bombard
Richard Perry

Old Business:

1. Friends of Hope Cemetery: Children's' Garden cleared up
Genealogy / paperwork have been given to Robert Antonelli for review, and then
can move forward with Friends
2. DPW clean material being brought for fill in has been completed
3. Lot Fees / Interments / Foundations : motion to approve increase
Matthew Curewitz
William Bombard
Nicole Apostola
4. Certified letter packets were sent to the Funeral Homes and Monument Companies
on
5. Fiscal 13 budget being reviewed / Submit to the Commission next month for the
final draft late March _April approval should be late may early June
6. Rehab Barn still under design
7. The fence on Hope Ave / Curewitz
8. Columbarium Field Trip to be set up William Wallace and Nicole Apostola
9. Green Burials will still be in discussion after more research is done

New Business:

1. Guest Speaker: Carol Kohn from Funeral Consumer's Alliance of Western Massachusetts Green Burials in Cemeteries
2. Anthropologist
3. William Wallace questions what are the alternatives (options) in regards to Green Burials?
 - a. Biodegradable
 - b. People are showing more of an interest
 - c. Vaults would not be needed
4. Conservation land trust /Separate section
5. Some cemeteries already involved Chesterfield, Rosey Creel SC., Green Springs NY
6. Concerns
 - a. Scavengers: How deep would the interment be? No legal requirement...
 - b. Green Burial the science of it. Water is it affected by the decomposing of the body
 - c. Public perception
7. Need more information in regards to this topic
 - a. Research Group
 - b. William Wallace and Robert Antonelli send a letter to WPI
 - c. Nicole Apostola: review modifications on green burials, MQP program, public perception (validations)
 - d. Initial response – science of it all
 - e. Practical realities
 - f. Extension programs (turf diseases, flat hill irrigations, sale types)

Motion to adjourn: William Bombard
Matthew Curewitz
Nicole Apostola

Next meeting: February 14, 2012 at 4:00PM