

CREMATORY STUDY COMMITTEE MINUTES

AUGUST 31, 2009

TOWN OFFICES, ROOM 307

LITTLETON, MA 01460

Members Present:

Jeff Boone

Richard Crowley

Cathleen Case

Steve Desisto

Absent:

Joe Knox

Peter Yapp

Dick Montminy

Charlie Ellis

Mary Gosby

Also Present:

Marilyn Fedele

Guest: Steve Talley

Matthews Cremation

- 5.01 Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.
- 5.02 Secretary's draft report to be voted at next meeting.
- 5.03 Steve Talley, Matthews Cremation, here to answer questions, educate, and inform.
- 5.04 Current zoning does allow a crematory on the cemetery grounds. Funeral directors in Massachusetts cannot own a crematory. There is no proposal right now; there is a withdrawn proposal.
- 5.05 Typically install 70-80% nationally in funeral homes. Families look to the funeral director for all their services.
- 5.06 UL listed; environmentally tested to the guidelines set forth; states are more stringent than Federal EPA standards; cities and towns even more stringent.
- 5.07 Steve Talley stated that in 2005 Federal EPA dropped regulating crematories because of their very low emissions, but they do have guidelines for emissions of carbon monoxide and microscopic particulate. Those are the two primary pollutants.
- 5.08 Opacity – clarity of gasses. Massachusetts level is 10% and must be maintained on file. Emission output is way below the permissible level at .04%. Massachusetts operates at 1600F. The higher the temperature the more emissions.
- 5.09 Massachusetts is one of the higher cremation states. The national average, preliminary 2008 figures, 36%; MA average 35%; projected for 2015 46%.
- 5.10 Advantage of a crematory is that it has an economic impact for the families.

- 5.11 Peter asked who does the testing. Independent testing labs; all third party' unbiased; independent.
- 5.12 Jeff asked if we could get that test data. Mercury is not one of the regulatory items for crematories. Light bulbs have mercury.
- 5.13 These were Steve Talley, Equipment Sales Consultant, Matthews Cremation, comments. Most crematories do not run 300 days per year. He noted that they can do up to 9 per day. How do you figure how much income from this? The average cremation takes 1½ hours. This is a service industry. Must be able to turn around as soon as possible. The hardest thing for any family is to have to wait two or three weeks to get their loved one back. Equipment is idle 80% of the time. The reality is the average of MA is 1200 per year per site.
- 5.14 Peter asked if crematories were put in funeral homes. They are put right in the funeral homes in the city outside of Massachusetts, in light commercial or residential areas.
- 5.15 Stack height is based on the height of the building, local building code, DEP requires 12' from a 90 degree elbow..
- 5.16 Peter asked about failures. Steve said they are extremely rare. If there was a power failure it would have to be at a certain time in the process to have an effect. If it happens after 35-45 minutes, there would be enough residual heat to clean the gasses.
- 5.17 Dick asked if most people put in generators. The answer was no.
- 5.18 Cost: unit cost, couple of power packs (2 units) with processing station, auto loader, no cooler, just shy of \$300K for equipment only.
- 5.19 Dick talked about the concern of residential families in the area. Steve said that the people in the area will not know it is there once it is in and functioning.
- 5.20 Steve told us to make sure that what the vendor gives us is what they tell you they are giving you. Matthews ships about 200 per year. There are also some replacement units.
- 5.21 Matthews meets the New York City air code (the strictest in the country for air quality); the only manufacturer that does.
- 5.22 There are four smaller units and one larger unit in New York City without the requirement of having scrubbers.
- 5.23 Peter asked if they were always upgrading their units. The answer is yes.

- 5.24 Training is included with every Matthews package. Start-up on-site. Would like Littleton to have at least one set of remains for training. They stay on the job site for three days. Six times per year there are operator certification programs, also included on-line. Need to have hands-on experience before attending an on-line class. Flexible on this. Be careful not to find too many people to be the operators; they need common sense.
- 5.25 Noise level depends on how the room is constructed. Not much outside noise.
- 5.26 Matthews is big on promoting safety. Treat everyone as if they are infectious – wear rubber gloves.
- 5.27 Steve encouraged joining CANA.
- 5.28 Cathy asked how often people do regulatory testing. This is dependent upon the DEP. Documenting is extremely important. Steve to send Joe results of PowerPak III testing., what the standard should be and where it falls.
- 5.29 One of the concerns that people have is diminishing property values. Steve says it has never been documented.
- 5.30 Rich would like an explanation of DEP and EPA limits; how do they relate to the real world.
- 5.31 Peter said that if we went and did an installation in Littleton and there would be a certain point to have someone trained but you do not have much business – “build it and they will come”. Steve said initially do not start with two machines but construct the building accordingly. Once the volume hits around 500 that is when you want the second machine.
- 5.32 Dick Montminy stated that the primary concern is safety
- 5.33 PowerPak II, a smaller unit is \$79K. More and more people are being cremated in hardwood caskets. The PowerPak III base unit is \$113K. Accessories would add up to at least another \$10K.
- 5.34 Jeff asked everyone to get questions lined up for the DEP; he is putting a list together. How many people are going to DEP on the 16th? Rich to tell Duggins there will be nine people. Questions will be e-mailed to Joe Knox. Jeff went over the questions.
- 5.35 Charlie asked who does the DEP hire to do the testing? Cost? These are the same questions we have been through with everyone who has come in here.
- 5.36 Steve trying to get a friend who does opacity testing to come in and talk with us. Look at particle matter, mercury, and dioxins.

5.37 The High School is No. 2148 ft. on the Google maps.

Meeting adjourned 9:25 p.m.