

## CREMATORY STUDY COMMITTEE MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2009  
TOWN OFFICES, ROOM 307  
LITTLETON, MA 01460

### Members Present:

Joe Knox  
Charlie Ellis  
Mary Gosby  
Steve Desisto  
Jeff Boone

### Also Present:

Peter Yapp  
Dick Montminy  
Kathy Case  
Rich Crowley  
Marilyn Fedele

- 7.01 Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.
- 7.02 Motion to approve the minutes as amended made by Charlie Ellis and seconded by Steve DeSisto. Motion carried.
- 7.03 Duxbury is redoing their Business Plan because it is 50 years old. Get the information from Plymouth when we go down there.
- 7.04 All set for Wednesday, October 7 at 9:30 in Plymouth. Meet at Town Hall parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Felt group too large for one tour; will do 2 separate tours. Peter asked about mileage. Mary and Cathy to drive.
- 7.05 Mary is still waiting to hear from Mount Auburn. They said yes and the date is OK.
- 7.06 Rich spoke with the Tom Cousins, major head – they are meeting with the rest of the division heads the 8<sup>th</sup> and will discuss our questions then. Sometime after the 8<sup>th</sup> or the 15<sup>th</sup> they will be able to give us a date to come to Worcester. Once a month all division heads get together and pool their issues and questions and will get back to us with a meeting date. Rich to get back to them the week of the 12<sup>th</sup>. Rich does not know why it is taking so long to get answers to the questions we want.
- 7.07 Joe does not want to waste too much time. We can call the State Senator to work with the State DEP. If we do not hear by the 8<sup>th</sup>, Rich to call Joe to get in touch with Jamie Eldridge.
- 7.08 Liability Insurance – the cost of the building and contents; \$450K for the building; retorts cost \$300K for two. \$850K gives us a high figure for liability insurance. Peter feels that the liability would be on the day to day activity. Separate the building vs. the personnel liability. What does the Cemetery Commission do now? Joe believes the employees are already

- covered in the Town insurance.
- 7.09 EPA Update – Charlie has spoken with Nikki Tsongas office. It would be a Wednesday in October. Charlie will call her office for either the 14<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in Room 307. If the EPA does come here, it is so that we can ask them questions. We do not want the audience asking questions first. Charlie will ask if they want our questions first.
- 7.10 Cost of Building – Rich went through the file at the Cemetery. Cost of \$500K for the building and another \$200K-\$250K for the equipment in the building. 1585 sq.ft. at \$316 per sq.ft. is exactly what we are paying these days. The information in the file was one in 2007. Would hold the number of \$500K and between \$200K-\$250K for equipment for a total of \$750K-\$800K in the ball park. \$316 sq.ft. is a good price for construction costs today; \$50K for soft expenses. Rich would say \$800K.
- 7.11 Council of Churches – it was a pleasure to meet with the people; they were open and receptive. Every recognized faith in town was in attendance. Quality of life is one of the biggest areas we have. It is very difficult to measure quality of life. All of the churches had no problem on the religious levels with cremation. Would it increase traffic? Did not see it as an impact on driving in the town. They switched from religion to traffic emissions. They were asking the same questions that we are seeking answers to. They did ask if we had talked with anyone of the Jewish faith. Scattering of ashes was the problem, not cremations. Cannot call it a chapel because it is a public cemetery.
- 7.12 Peter talked about an interesting article in the Wall Street Journal about sellbacks of cemetery lots. The article did not push cremation but one of the sellbacks is financial.
- 7.13 Jeff received an e-mail from an Assistant Professor at MIT with reference to air quality environmental concerns from crematoria and he stated that there is not much information available.
- 7.14 Steve spoke with John Jane who has equipment that does this type of testing. There is nothing out there. The cost of doing testing is borne by the crematory.
- 7.15 Rich went to the Cemetery office and found Walter's old file. He had done a tremendous amount of research. Probably worth taking the time to go through it carefully. There might be some test data that Walter already went through. The IT person who cleaned up Walter's computer might have some stuff there; that file might be a good source for some data. Rich will go take a look at all the data. It's within 2 ½ years so the data should still be good. Rich will get a chronological package of what's there. There is probably a lot of studd that we can use.

- 7.16 The Matthews gentleman was going to get us the number of cremations. Every body has to be examined for cremations. There were 44 Littleton people taken for cremation in 2008; 29 in 2007; and 36 in 2006.
- 7.17 The next meeting is Wednesday, October 14, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 307. October 7<sup>th</sup> is the first field trip, the 21<sup>st</sup> is the second one. The 28<sup>th</sup> is the second meeting in October.
- 7.18 Peter Cassinari wants to go to the Plymouth meeting. Peter Yapp will talk with him to see what his interest is.

Meeting adjourned 8:12 p.m.