

CREMATORY STUDY COMMITTEE MINUTES

AUGUST 3, 2009
TOWN OFFICES, ROOM 307
LITTLETON, MA 01460

Members Present:

Jeff Boone
Richard Crowley
Cathleen Case
Steve Desisto
Charlie Ellis
Mary Gosby
Joe Knox
Dick Montminy

Also Present:

Marilyn Fedele

- 2.01 Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m.
- 2.02 Approved 7-22-07 minutes as amended.
- 2.03 Rich Crowley contacted the DEP Permit Chief from Central Massachusetts to help us understand what their role is in crematories from start to finish to follow-up. Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday would work for him; most likely we will do a field trip to meet with himj or his office people. Charlie prefers that he come here to meet with us. If we have to do a road trip, a night meeting would be best; Rich to call for a Wednesday evening meeting.
- 2.04 Charlie has made several calls to Nikki Tsongas; she did not think there would be a problem finding someone to come out to visit us; expecting a call back.
- 2.05 Schedule Monday, August 31, Steve Talley; middle of September field trips.
- 2.06 Joe Knox and Charlie Ellis to meet with the Council of Churches at the end of September.
- 2.07 August 31 – Joe has a conflict with vacation. Will vote on having a Vice Chair. Cathleen made a motion, seconded by Dick Montminy to nominate Rich Crowley for Vice Chair. Steve Desisto and Jeff Boone are both willing to be Vice Chair. Cathleen withdrew her nomination. Charlie nominated Steve to be Vice Chair, Jeff seconded. Motion carried for Steve to be Vice Chair.
- 2.08 Dave Crispin, BCS Group, and Bob Gottberg of Robert Gottberg Associates, made a presentation to the group on the new crematory in Plymouth which they recently completed.
- 2.09 Joe Knox stated that the stacks were not as high in Haverhill.

- 2.10 Chapel vs. viewing room – Plymouth did not want to call it a chapel because it is a municipal cemetery. Duxbury was build about 25 years ago and does not have either a chapel or a viewing room.
- 2.11 Cathleen stated that since the cemetery in Littleton is a municipal we would have to go through the Legislature.
- 2.12 Rich asked how many cremations can you do per day. The answer was three to four per day per unit. With a very large person and a hardwood casket, it could take three or four hours. New numbers from CANA will be coming out in mid-August.
- 2.13 Charlie asked who actually does the air quality testing, monitors the books. SEP sets the standards. They have three items on the equipment to verify the numbers: (1) interlock with the primary burner; (2) continuous monitoring smoke density indicator – 0 to 100%; and 3 24 hour per day recorder that records the temperature of the primary chamber and the secondary chamber.
- 2.14 Joe Knox stated that we one concern is what comes out the smoke stacks and how it is monitored. There is not much going up but carbon monoxide. There are non-approved crematory caskets that cannot be cremated, they have a fair amount of plastic in them and the temperatures go too high.
- 2.15 Steve wanted to know if there is someone in the building at all times while the cremation is going on. After the cremation begins and the body is in the retort, controls on the equipment modify the burners to a 1600o temperature. The person working in the crematory opens the committal door and puts in the casket; the door is closed and the burner begins. He can then go and do whatever. He does need to come back in before it is over. There is no indication tht the casket is complete.
- 2.16 Cathleen asked to have the two chambers explained. The secondary chamber is below the primary chamber.
- 2.17 It is very important to make sure that the people who work at the crematorium handle everything properly. Have to be ultra clean. Looking for schools, hospitals, and nursing homes to be not within 1500 feet.
- 2.18 Rich wanted to know what is referenced when they test. It has to be three stacked diameters away from the last turn. Nothing chemically happens in the stack.
- 2.19 Cathleen stated that people in the community will be having concerned about the emissions.
- 2.20 Steve mentioned scrubbers. There are no scrubbers installed on crematoriums in the United States with the exception of Los Angeles and San Francisco.

- 2.21 Plymouth has hired a person to be the crematorium person with a back-up person who is also trained.
- 2.22 Who would be the person to arrange a field trip to Plymouth? Dave Crispin said that he could do that.
- 2.23 The cemetery in Plymouth is operated by the DPW.
- 2.24 The cultures using a crematory are Muslims, Japanese, and 98% of the Hawaiians. Blacks not.
- 2.25 Dick Montminy asked if Plymouth had so much land, why did they build a crematorium. It is because cremations are going up.
- 2.26 You would need to do a survey to the Town; if the numbers work, it could be profitable to the Town.
- 2.27 There is a void as far as driving time in this part of the State.
- 2.28 Our plans are to make field trips in mid-September.
- 2.29 Need to look at how you would put the new addition into the old building at Westlawn Cemetery.
- 2.30 If the town decided to go for a Request for Feasibility Study, the specifications will be set forth by the Cemetery Commissioners and the Permanent Municipal Building Committee and it would have to go out to bid..
- 2.31 Mary Gosby made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dick Montminy, at 9:21 p.m. Motion carried.
- 2.32 Next Meeting: August 17, 7:00 P.M., Room 307, Town Hall

Meeting adjourned.