

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL GROUNDS/CEMETERY COMMISSION August 11, 2022

Meeting of the Municipal Grounds/Cemetery Commission was held in the office of the DPW 50 Manca Drive on Thursday, August 11, 2022.

Members Present: John Awdycki Chairman; Brian LaRoche; Denise Merriam; Christine Harty Administrative Assistant

Attendees: Dane Arnold, Director of Public Works; Dean Meunier, Foreman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson, John Awdycki called the meeting to order at 7:45 am.

OPEN MEETING RECORDING

ANNOUNCEMENT – any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting, or may transmit the meeting through any medium, subject to reasonable requirements of the chair as to the number, placement and operation of equipment used so as not to interfere with the conduct of the meeting. Any person intending to make such recording shall notify the chair forthwith. All Documents referenced or used during the meeting must be submitted in duplicate to the Secretary of the Committee, pursuant to the Open Meeting and Public Records Law. All documents shall become part of the official record of the meeting. There was no one present taping the meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion made by Brian LaRoche second by Denise Merriam to accept the minutes of the May 19, 2022, meeting as written. All in favor motion carries.

ORDINANCES, GENERAL LAWS, AND SPECIAL ACTS

Denise informs Committee of recent contact with Mayor Michael Nicholson regarding new law for scooters on public ways. Mayor inquired and/or recommended change of ordinance regarding City Cemeteries. Spoke with Dane who reviewed the current Ordinance and found scooters are covered under article referring to all motorized vehicles prohibited. No change to Ordinance needed.

CORRESPONDENCE

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: REPORTS FROM AUDITOR

Motion made by Denise Merriam second by Brian Laroche to accept the financial statement, all in favor motion passes.

STATUS OF FACILITIES

Dean: Building demo is complete. Have received some complaints. Example: the old, large granite doors broke while being moved in attempt to salvage them.

Dane: have also received good feedback, for example, residents more comfortable jogging in area with the old, dilapidated building gone.

Denise: any word on vaults? Dane states he has received no response yet.

John: the cable on the safety net at Oliva Case needs tightening. Also, the fencing by 1st and 3rd base at Bickford needs to be repaired/replaced. Prongs are sticking out and in.

Dean: could replace fencing or remove and flatten. Brian makes suggestion to contact a fencing company.

Brian: mentions hearing of recreation facility off Leo Drive. Dane informs this is a grant project through Community Development.

Dane: Blue Cross Blue Shield has also given the city a 50K grant for an outdoor fitness area.

Denise: inquiring on railings at monument park? Holes are there for placement but no railings? Any idea when Gilbert will get them complete? Had a woman recently fall.

Dane: Gilbert will not be completing job. Dean Paige to complete job.

Brian: suggestion to place signs in park for patrons to use caution.

Dean: had signs at Crystal Lake requesting no vehicles on grass. Found patrons still parking on grass in area different than sign, cannot place enough signs to cover areas.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEAD UNDER COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION

Dane: advises Committee the DPW has been down significantly on employees due to vacant spots and significant cases of Covid. Also states, once feedback is received on vaults, will look to use funding from both Perpetual Care and request for City funds.

Dean: had spoken with Jaquelyn Poirier at one time and learned that after the City of Fitchburg's purchase of first vault, sales resulted in reimbursement of purchase as well as excess funds to purchase a second.

NEW BUSINESS

Denise: few glitches with band concerts, one had cancelled last minute due to Covid. Replacement was found, they were good, and will be looking to have them return.

The next meeting scheduled for November 10, 2022, at 7:45 am.

Motion made by Brian LaRoche second by Denise Merriam to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 am. All in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted:

Christine M. Harty, Administrative Assistant
All documentation mentioned at the meeting may be viewed at the DPW Office at 50 Manca Drive