

*****NOTICE*****

*****OPEN TO THE PUBLIC*****

PERU CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, October 14, 2024. Meeting begins at 10:00am

Town Hall Community Center, 3 E Main Rd, Peru, MA 01235

Agenda

1. Call to order, Roll call
2. Acknowledgement of meeting recording status.
3. Finalization of minutes from the September 9, 2024 meeting
4. Updates on recent activity / requests regarding the cemeteries – D. Darby
5. Updates on new discussions regarding an expansion of South Cemetery – D. Darby
6. Proposed communication from Cem Comm to families of recently deceased regarding Cemetery Rules
7. Continuation of discussions regarding inclusions of Green Burials in cemetery practices.
8. Revisit and possible revision to the Cemetery Commission Mission Statement
9. Plans for meeting with Hinsdale Cemetery Commissioner / Topics for discussion
10. Planning for next Cemetery Commission activities or next Cemetery Commission Meetings
11. Any Other Business
12. Adjourn Meeting

Posted on October 10, 2024 @8:29 am

Kim Leach, Town Clerk

Official posting: www.townofperuma.com



CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES October 14, 2024

Present: Jim Kenney, Chairman
Darryl Darby, Member/Cemetery Sexton
Gladys Wheeler, Member

- The meeting was called to order at 10:00am. Roll call was taken
- Acknowledgement of meeting recording status – This meeting was not recorded.
- Finalization of minutes from the September 9, 2024 meeting. - Minutes were finalized and the signed version will be provided to the Town Clerk.
- Updates on recent activity / requests regarding the cemeteries – D. Darby reported that no burials have occurred since the last meeting.
- Updates on new discussions regarding an expansion of South Cemetery – D. Darby reported that there was no new information since the last meeting. Members requested that Darryl follow-up with the land owner to better understand what the asking price would be for the half-acre adjacent to South Cemetery.
- Proposed communication from Cem Comm to families of recently deceased regarding Cemetery Rules: Members are interested to make Cemetery Rules available to the families of townspeople who pass away. G. Wheeler has drafted a message that can be sent to families with a bereavement card and the Rules. Members agreed to review the draft message and gather informal feedback for discussion at the next meeting.
- Continuation of discussions regarding inclusions of Green Burials in cemetery practices: A town resident inquired in August through the town website by e-mail regarding the possibility of green burials. The response informed the resident that the Cemetery Rules were updated in 2024 and that green burials were purposely not addressed since Commissioners are not familiar with current practices. However, at this meeting, Commissioners did agree to review practices in other towns so that this topic can be addressed in an update to the Cemetery Rules. There is clear agreement to include the Board of Health in these discussions as well as the resident making the inquiry. Additionally, J. Kenney agreed to contact the Worthington Cemetery Commission to better understand the issues worked through since Worthington does allow Green Burials.
- Revisit and possible revision to the Cemetery Commission Mission Statement: The members reviewed the current Mission Statement and found it remains acceptable with an edit to remove the word 'three' since the reference is to the three main cemeteries in town and would exclude the care and upkeep of the smaller cemeteries. Once agreed, Darby motioned to approve the edited Mission Statement, Wheeler seconded and the group voted 3 – 0 in favor.
- Plans for meeting with Dan Kaufmann, Hinsdale Cemetery Commissioner / Topics for discussion – This topic has taken a back-burner in recent months. J. Kenney will take responsibility for arranging the discussion.
- Any Other Business –
 - Update: Clean-up of the South Road Extension Cemetery – This activity has not gotten the attention it deserves. The work should begin in the Fall since permission was granted by the landowner.
 - Discuss selection for Friends of the Cemetery Commission acknowledgment: Members agreed who will be recognized in the next Live Wire edition.

- Planning for next Cemetery Commission activities or next Cemetery Commission Meetings – The next Cemetery Commission meeting is planned for November 11 at 10:00am. (Post Meeting Note: This meeting was rescheduled to November 25).
- Adjourn Meeting at 11:10am

Approved and submitted:

James Kenney, Chairman: *James P. Kenney*

Darryl Darby: *Darryl Darby*

Gladys Wheeler: *Gladys W. Wheeler*

Date: 3/31/25

RECEIVED
APR 05 2025
Kim Deach
TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF PERU