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BELMONT, MA**

DATE: May 19, 2023

TIME: 8:53 AM

Board of Cemetery Commissioners

Walking Tour of Belmont Cemetery Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2022

Members Attending: Bill Chemelli, Alex Corbett, Ellen O'Brien Cushman

Others Attending: Danielle Desilets from Kyle Zick (kzla), Jay Marcotte, DPW Director. Frank Sartori Cemetery Manager

Meeting called to order at 1: 00 PM outside the Cemetery office, 121 Grove Street.

Over the next 1 ½ hours the group walked the Cemetery, talking about the layout, the general acquisition sequence to grow the cemetery into the full cemetery property it is today.

Particular mentions were made :

- The Heart Bed at the Cemetery entrance and former plantings of tulips, pansies and geraniums
- The Police and Fire Monuments
- The Veterans area at the front of the Cemetery
- The two wrought iron gates, front main entrance and side Grove Street entrance
- The historic granite and stone perimeter wall with wrought iron fencing
- The Hemlock hedgerow along Fairview Avenue
- The Cambridge portion of the Cemetery, Norton Circle
- The oldest part of the cemetery at the peak of the hill, with the monument marking the oldest burial marker for a 3 year old named Harriet Downes in the mid- 1800's.
- The Allee of Trees from the Grove Street Gate
- Some of the outstanding monuments
- The Veterans Area at the rear of the Cemetery with flagpole and monument dedicated by Belmont Lions
- The infants section
- The old section overlooking the Huron Towers with very steep incline
- The lilac and spirea hedge along Huron Avenue
- The customary Memorial Day Parade, Cemetery ceremony, roll call and the presentation of flowers to the front Veterans section
- The ongoing stress of trying to replace very old majestic trees with younger saplings to maintain the visual landscape and the overgrown bushes and shrubs.
- Existing policy to allow families to plant in front of headstones to add to the beauty of the cemetery

Ellen promised to send Danielle some documents, milestones and annexations of land from Annual Cemetery reports, deeds to the property and other notable events. Danielle will use the information along with her own research to start to develop the report.

Tour ended at 2:45 PM
Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen O'Brien Cushman