

Minutes of
Bainbridge Township Cemetery Board
June 6, 2012

Present: Bill Takacs, Chairman; Ted Seliga; Rob Arnold; Greg Marous, Road Department and Linda Zimmerman, Secretary

Mr. Takacs, Chairman called the regular meeting to order at 3:46 P.M. at the Town Hall.

MINUTES

The minutes of the May 2, 2012 meeting were approved as written.

NEW BUSINESS

Columbarium Location Specifications

Mr. Seliga explained that the location specifications for all columbariums were discussed previously but not specifically defined in the minutes.

Mr. Seliga made a motion to define the location and numbering specifications for all columbariums. Columbarium niche row shall be numbered from top to bottom using letters (A, B, C, etc.). Columbarium columns shall be numbered from left to right using numbers (1, 2, 3, etc.). Columbarium niche locations are defined while facing the columbarium wall. The columbarium wall shall be designated by the direction which it faces. The columbarium location shall be designated by the section and lot location of its southwest corner. Example: Section 13E, Lot 71, Niche N (north side), A (row), 1 (column).

Mr. Marous seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Proposed Walkway Around Columbarium

The board discussed a proposed walkway around the existing columbarium and was in agreement that because of future maintenance issues and the possibility of more columbariums being added it would be better to not have a walkway with pavers at this time and to leave it as it is with the mulch and minimal plantings.

Mr. Seliga made a motion to recommend at this time that we keep the columbarium surrounds as is in a natural state.

Mr. Marous seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Mr. Seliga will advise Mr. Stanek of the board's recommendation.

Ard Request - Angel Statue

The board discussed the request by Ms. Carol Ard for the Marjorie and Regis Fisher graves at Restland Cemetery. She is requesting permission to place an angel statue above her parent's headstone. Mr. Marous reported that there is another angel statue three rows to the east that is 30" high with a 16" wing span which is just about the same size as this one that is being requested. He noted that it is not set on a footer, none of the other statues are on footers and they have been there for years so he doesn't see a problem. Mr. Seliga reported that he visited the cemetery and looked at the double headstone and recommended that it should be sitting on the east side overlooking the headstone.

Mr. Marous made a motion to permit the angel statue that was requested in the position on the east side of the headstone as specified in the original request.

Mr. Arnold seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Meeting Schedule

Since the next regularly scheduled meeting falls on the Fourth of July holiday, the board was in agreement to cancel the meeting scheduled for July 4, 2012.

Signs at McFarland and Fowler Cemeteries

Mr. Takacs reported that he is doing some research on the Fowler and McFarland cemeteries and questioned the information on the signs that the scouts made for the cemeteries. He said in 1825 and 1826 burials were made and people were buried previous to when the cemeteries were established. He said the property was conveyed to the township in 1859 but not recorded until 1868. The board held a discussion regarding the signs for the Fowler and McFarland cemeteries and noted that Mr. Don Mitchell may have some additional information regarding the signs.

OLD BUSINESS

Cemetery Management Software

Mr. Seliga reported that Ramaker, Inc. is working on the software and it is in their hands right now. He showed the board an aerial map of the old section and one with a GIS layer on it. Mr. Marous explained that he and Mr. Seliga have been taking measurements at Restland Cemetery in order to supply Ramaker, Inc. with accurate information for the software.

Tree Planting Plan

The board discussed future tree plantings. Mr. Marous said trees can create a maintenance problem with lightning strikes and dying trees etc. The board was in agreement that the trees should be non-shedding and with roots that don't spread. The board discussed the fact that trees would make it more of a park like setting but will it prevent people from buying graves at Restland because there are not as many trees as other cemeteries. The board noted that certain trees such as evergreens don't have deep root systems and can blow over easily and impact graves, certain trees create a huge clean-up in the fall and grave sites will be lost. The board asked Mr. Marous to contact the Ohio Cemetery Association for a recommendation on what trees should be planted in a cemetery that would have the least impact. The board discussed placing flowering trees around the columbarium but they could potentially stain it. Mr. Arnold suggested contacting an arborist from the State of Ohio for information on what kinds of trees would be best planted in a cemetery.

The board was in agreement to continue the discussion about tree plantings and maintenance at future meetings.

Memorial Day

Mr. Marous reported on the Memorial Day activity at Restland Cemetery and noted that the new loud speaker system worked out very well. He said Mr. Markley noticed that the older veterans had trouble getting to the flag so he recommended that a little section be cut out and some stepping stones be added so it would be easier for them. Mr. Marous recommended that next year a water jug should be made available along with a porta-potty and he will recommend it to the events committee and added that it might be held at Heritage Park next year. He said he was disappointed with the landscapers because according to the contract they are supposed to cut the grass twice during the week before Memorial Day but they refused because it hadn't rained and there was no grass to cut. He said he had to remove the grass from the headstones the day before and suggested that the contract be tightened up. He also reported that since school is letting out before Memorial Day next year, the marching band will not be able to participate so he will try to contact a military band and will start asking now. He said this is the first year the township had to pay for everything for the event and the VA is not even supplying the flags anymore.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held August 1, 2012 at 3:30 P.M.

Since there was no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda L. Zimmerman
Secretary to Cemetery Board