

MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 23, 2019

New Castle Cemetery Trustees monthly meeting at New Castle Town Hall, 3.30 p.m.

Present: Terri Golter, Carol White, Holly Fraumeni (appointed), Christiane McAllister

1. The September minutes were approved.
2. Budget discussion with Christiane (town accountant) regarding bill payments and coding, TOTF meeting, etc.
3. Terri spoke with Mike Petlick regarding mowing around the stakes in Oceanside and adding loam in both Oceanside and Riverside. Terri will also meet with Petlick's accountant, Danielle Petlick, in November, to review invoices.
4. The signage for Tarlton Cemetery and been installed correctly near Pitt Lane.
5. Terri met with Tim Griffin to discuss his services regarding marking lots in preparation for burials.

Upon review of the lot by Griffin, Carl Masi (Oceanside, R45, lot 15) was advised that there is ledge at a depth of 18", but that two cremains can be buried, depending on the height of the urns.

Additional lots were marked by Griffin for Jim Hall and Martin Turmelle. Terri will be meeting with the Hall family to discuss the disinterment and relocation of cremains from one position to another within the same lot. The cost for this is \$500 to be paid to Griffin.

A very reasonable price was extended by Griffin to ensure proper staking of lots. He will also use metal markers to detect locations of cremains rather than tiles, for tiles break upon probing.

6. Don White was asked to document his request for a second lot in Oceanside. He is interested in procuring lots in Row 9, 1-3L. The sale is pending a receipt of his written request.
7. New Castle resident Kay Fay as inquired and will select a plot location in Oceanside.
8. The residents adjacent to Riverside Cemetery have agreed to continue to donate the water supply for the cemetery. This benefits the town taxpayers.
9. Other concerns in Riverside include the grave sites to the right of the shed, along with serious structural issues with the shed, itself – the steps have rotted and are broken, and the shed is tilting down the slope. Terri will discuss addressing these issues with Steve Tabbutt.
10. Carol reviewed the sinking stones in Riverside as reported in the Meloon lot. It was determined that though they have lowered, the trustees have other pressing repairs that will need to be addressed, first. These markers will be addressed as budgeting allows for this fiscal year.
11. Cemetery Trustees met with Mark Hughes on Saturday, October 19th, regarding the portion of Clark family cemetery that remains on his property. Discussion involved the transfer of an additional 160 square feet from his property to the town of New Castle that was previously

neglected to be addressed with earlier transfers of property. After a later discussion with Hughes, Laurie Clark determined that the most agreeable solution would be for the town of New Castle to return the previously "gifted" portion of her family cemetery back to the original real property which now belongs to Hughes. The divided Clark family cemetery, as it stands now, purportedly contains the remains of five family members. The section closest to Riverside was originally deeded over to New Castle in 1969 (less the remaining 160 square feet) but was never incorporated within the cemetery boundary for maintenance. Laurie Clark has provided a written request for the land to be released by the town of New Castle. A town selectman has advised Carol that it is not as easy to return gifted land as it is to receive it, but that they will consider the request.

Below are the minutes of the October 19th meeting with Mark Hughes.

Meeting with Mark Hughes

Oct 19, 2019

Riverside Cemetery- Deeded portion to Town of New Castle

At 8:30 am on Sat, Oct 19, 2019, all 3 cemetery trustees, Terri Golter, Carol White and Holly Fraumeni met with land owner Mark Hughes, along with Gordon Reynolds (abutter) and Mark's business partner and tenant, regarding the granting of a deeded portion of Mark Hughes land at 38 Laurel Lane, which he bought from Laurie Clark. Laurie Clark's 3-4 relatives are buried in the portion that Mark was going to transfer to the Town of New Castle, Cemetery Trustees. Laurie Clark had already deeded over a portion of land prior to her selling her Laurel Street family home with land to Mark Hughes. There is a small triangle of land that would be deeded with some of Laurie's relatives buried half on town cemetery land and half on Mark's property if he did not deed it.

Mark Hughes wanted to make sure that we put on the deed that he had *final* approval of any retaining wall, if ever needed, on the slope portion of the land he was going to deed to the town. This area was a past fox den and Gordon Reynolds filled it in.

We also let Mark Hughes and Gordon Reynolds know that we will be replacing the current chain link fence with green plastic insert strips with a black wrought iron fence approximately 5 ft high, similar to the one we had installed at Henris' and Frost Cemetery. Gordon Reynolds advised that he did not like that as the leaves blew through and that is why Laurie put them up in the first place. Mark Hughes also said if we added the fencing within our new portion of the lot, as it is now, the fence would split up a relative of Laurie's who was buried there. Terri Golter advised that we would ensure that would not happen. Either way, Mark. Hughes was further advised that the current green fence would be removed to allow access to the plots for maintenance, and that a new fence would be installed to delineate the town cemetery line. Gordon Reynolds added that he would like to see a low fence in the area of the Clark family plot where the cornerstones/stakes now marked the quadrilateral gravesite.

Mark Hughes would not come to an agreement unless we agreed on the new deed where he would have final approval of the retaining wall, so he suggested that he could just give Laurie a right of way. We said that was up to him and he needed to speak to Laurie about that.

We told Mark that we are happy to work with him, happy to have his input, but we are obligated by law to maintain the cemetery and we do not have final say either of what construction would be done. The selectmen and a contractor giving them advice would have the final say.

I told Mr. Hughes that I would check with the selectmen about any wording for this issue and consult with Steve Tabbutt (public works) if he had suggestions for the retaining wall if we should ever need one.

All parties agreed that we do like that area left naturally, for example, no big cement walls, but since the trustees are required to maintain that area, as well as having to have access to it, we were also under the guidance of the selectmen, any contractor's suggestions, and the code for work done IF something ever needs to be done.

We all want the same result, but Mr. Hughes wanted to speak with Laurie Clark first, to try to come to a conclusion on this.

The decision is continued until further information is obtained.