

Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2015

Convened: 10:30 A.M. at the Township Office located at 47240 Green Acres Road.

Who Present: John Ollila, Bruce Petersen (acting as the Secretary), Jay Green (Green Cemetery Association), Marty Heikkila (Sexton) and Bill Bingham

Discussion Points:

- A 1998 Chev. S-10 compact truck with a 4 cylinder engine and automatic transmission has been located and the owner is asking \$2,100.00 for the vehicle. The truck has been test driven and seems to be in good condition. The committee gave the Sexton the go-ahead to offer the owner \$1,200.00 and not to go more than \$1,500.00.
- The cemetery employees, minus Steve M., started their seasonal work on May 20th (Monday).
- A latter cemetery committee meeting will be called to discuss the importance of replacing the existing galvanized pipe irrigation system in the front half of the cemetery. The Twp. Supervisor will begin to gather some of the rudimentary design parameters and costs.
- Jay Green started the conversation about the “green cemetery”. A portion of Section 17 will be earmarked for green burials. MTU students will be used to survey out section 17.

Green Burial Discussion Points:

>> If a person is an existing lot owner and wishes to be interred in this manner in another section of the cemetery they could choose to do that. Upright markers, funerary objects, etc. will still be allowed even thou it was a green burial.

>> To cover the cost of timely green burials – which must occur within 48 hours – the Sexton thought that two employees would be needed so: the Forest Hill cemetery fee schedule contained in the cemetery ordinance 119 will have to be modified to show all Saturdays, Sundays, Evenings and Holiday burials would require that an additional \$400.00 charge. The Ordinance will also have to be modified to accommodate the inclusion of the green cemetery concept.

>> If the family would like to assist in the burial they would be allowed to assist in the covering only. Forest Hill staff will dig the burial site and a cemetery employee will be present during the entirety of the service and will assist the family with the covering if requested.

>> Only biodegradable materials such as wicker, cardboard & wood coffins and shrouds will be used. There will be no concrete vaults and conventional embalming fluid allowed.

>> May 1st thru October 30th is the proposed window for this kind of interment with other weather related or special considerations. In the future refrigeration may be employed. “Green embalming” in combination with at least a structurally sound cardboard casket and tray will be used to extend that 48 hour burial period.

>> In the portion of Section 17 that will be used for green burials only flat headstones will be allowed at the ground level with a maximum dimensional size of 12” x 18”.

>> The green cemetery will consist of a wildflower meadow utilizing a mixture of native plant species.

>> In the green cemetery area in section 17 there will not be any above ground funerary objects allowed – mowing which will not be impeded by any above ground objects and it will occur at least once a year to encourage native plant species growth.

Adjourned at 11:40am - John made the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Petersen
Township Supervisor