

Town of Orford  
Cemetery Commission  
Meeting Minutes August 12, 2023

Members Present: Brenda Smith, David Smith, Linda Pease

Others Present: Chase Kling, Selectboard Representative, Amy Emerson, Melvin Emerson, Joanne Fratus

**Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion made by Brenda; seconded by David to accept the minutes of June 10, 2023. Motion passed 3/0.

**Old Business**

Orford's Ordinance regarding use of public grounds dated 2/20/20 under sanitation, Section III, no pets allowed on public grounds.

Amy and Mel Emerson stated that they believe dogs should be allowed on town property, including cemeteries, and owners should be required to clean up after their dogs. They suggested that the town provide receptacles with disposable bags for dog waste. After further discussion, the Cemetery Commissioners decided that they will draft a dog policy for Orford cemeteries and submit it to the Selectboard for consideration. The dog policy should be coordinated with other town committees and probably put on the warrant for next year's town meeting. A few suggestions from the Cemetery Commission for the dog policy included no dogs allowed; or if dogs are allowed, then requiring they be on a leash and providing receptacles of disposable bags to put dog waste in with a rule of "take in – take out."

Gravestone Restoration

Paul and Claudia Tracy's proposal (P&C Gravestone Restoration) to be allowed to restore gravestones in the Orford Cemeteries when requested by family members was approved by the Cemetery Commissioners. Information about P&C Gravestone Restoration was included with the approved minutes for the May 6, 2023, Cemetery Commission Meeting. Contact claudiatracy62@gmail.com.

**New Business**

Bids for Tree Removal – Three bids have been received for removal of the Bull Pine tree at Dame Hill Cemetery. We are waiting for one more bid.

Above Ground Burials – The Cemetery Commissioners discussed above ground burials for cremations using small plexiglass or stone mausoleums to encase the ashes. We discussed specifics such as measurements, not larger than a headstone, and client presentations of their request to the Cemetery Commission. The Cemetery Commission will do additional research and develop rules.

Independent Contractors – Families who request an independent contractor as opposed to having a funeral contract to dig graves must notify the Cemetery Commissioner in advance to be sure they comply with rules for burial. Rules/Contracts will be discussed further at our next meeting. In addition, the Cemetery Commissioner will compile a list of independent contractors that we use for burials, i.e., for cremations or vault burials.

#### Cemetery Rules

The Orford Cemetery Commission agreed on the following Rules to be posted at each cemetery:

- 1) All plantings must be approved by the Cemetery Commission. All seasonal plants must be removed by November 1.
- 2) Vehicles must stay on designated roadways.
- 3) Monuments and their placement must be approved by the Cemetery Commission.
- 4) Motor vehicles of any description shall not be permitted to enter or park in the Orford Cemeteries after sundown. Snowmobiles and ATVs are not permitted to enter the grounds of the Orford Cemeteries.

Full Rules and Regulations of the Orford Cemeteries are available at the town offices and on the town website.

#### **Adjourn**

Motion made by Brenda, seconded by Linda to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 3/0.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Pease