

**Rochester Cemetery Commission Meeting**  
**Monday, March 15, 2024 – 2:15 PM**  
**Wednesday, March 18, 2024 – 2:15 PM**  
**Town Office Conference Room**

**Present:** Tom Paquette, Michele Schnabel, Joe Schenkman, Nancy Woolley  
**Guest:** Susie Smolen, Steve Twitchell

Susie interested in options for green burials in Rochester cemeteries. Explained that there is no property available to offer this option at this time, and suggested she inquire at the new Roxbury cemetery.

Discussed with Steve his plans for future mowing, caretaking and gravedigging. Steve wants to continue with all jobs at this time. We explained that we need this information in the event he decides to retire. Also presented the new invoice and requested that he submit the invoice with a breakdown of trimming hours and mowing hours. Steve explained his understanding is that the \$24,000 he is being paid is for mowing and trimming only! Nothing else! He receives \$650 for Gravedigging for a casket and \$250 for an urn from the family, and he contracts with Ray Harvey for excavator digging. Steve feels that his crew consisting of Jamie West and Daniel Roy is good. Explained to Steve that he is responsible for the burial transmittal certificates and that there can be no burials without the certificate, and that he must work with the Town Clerk to properly complete the grave form in the Town Office, indicating placement. State Law does not allow family members to open grave for urn placement.

Discussion: continue to work on the revision of cemetery lot deed

Continued discussion on space available in each cemetery

Discussed lot and corner pricing: Single Lot: \$400 4 ½ x 4/1/2 (can accommodate 8 cremations)  
4 cornerstones – \$140 plus \$100 for installation  
Perpetual Care \$400  
½ Lot: \$200 (4 cremations)  
4 cornerstones \$140 plus \$100 for installation

Update on difficulty of computerization of cemetery records

Work further on job description (sexton and gravedigger) to include routine cemetery maintenance, spring and fall cleanup, mowing and cleaning grass off gravestones, weedwacking west bank to Route 100, road maintenance (ruts)

Adjourned 5:00 PM