

Call to Order at 9:32am: Fred Vohr, Chair called the meeting to order. Member, Ron Kelter was present. Others in attendance included CPHS/FRCOG representative, Randy Crochier

Guest: Town Clerk Joe Judd

Acceptance of Minutes: Ron presented a motion to accept the minutes of September 1, 2023 as presented. Fred seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Appointments: Joe Judd to discuss Green Cemeteries. Joe started by explaining that he was present not as Town Clerk, but in his role as part of group working with Hill Cemetery on Old Village Rd, Shelburne. Hill Cemetery is the only cemetery owned and operated by the town of Shelburne.

Joe provided background of the cemetery, which was started in the 1760,'s and continues to the present day. There is evidence via ground penetrating radar of multiple burials using what we today call "Green Burials". In 2014, Hill Cemetery earned a Historic Designation.

Joe provided much information around the natural decaying process of the human body when properly buried including the lack of odors and no evidence of wild animals digging up deceased bodies.

In Massachusetts, the BOH is responsible for siting of cemeteries in their towns. As this cemetery has existed for years, there is no need for the BOH to approve. However, Joe stated he was reaching out to notify and get feedback from the BOH. This discussion was needed prior to the cemetery group going to the Select Board for their approval of a plan to return to allowing green burials in Hill cemetery as a way to slow down the loss of sales now being felt as more people are looking for a green burial options.

Joe listed of the proposed rules for the cemetery:

- Hill Cemetery preserves the right to determine & limit spots available for green burials
- Remains must be properly stored/refrigerated etc. prior to committal
- Funeral Home must be involved with all Green Burials
- The Town will do all digging of grave lots
- Proper coffins/shrouds will be required
- One body per grave limit
- There will be marker rules to mark grave sites

Randy provided information on The Riverside Woods cemetery in Gill where he works as Health Agent and is the Chair of the Select Board.

Joe ask asked the BOH members if they had any questions. The members had no remaining questions and thanked Joe for such a thorough presentation. No vote was taken, however the members were strongly in support, and in favor of the proposal.

Joe Judd left the meeting at 10:05am.

CPHS updates: Randy reported that CPHS remains busy with required inspections and has had a small increase in housing cases. In Shelburne CPHS is involved with 4 Bridge St and 57 Main S to address housing concerns.

At 1105 Mohawk Trail, the Arrowhead Shops Inc. (Posada Restaurant) we have had an increase in complaints of the septic system, which is in an advance stage of failure. Randy plans to issue orders to the owner regarding the needed steps to avoid condemnation of the system, effectively condemning the building in the process.

Items not anticipated at time of Posting: None

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: None

Next Meeting: Next meeting was set for November 2, 2023 at 9:30am

Adjournment: Ron presented a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:17am. Fred seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.