

PENTWATER TOWNSHIP

ON PENTWATER LAKE AND LAKE MICHIGAN
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Township Cemetery Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes September 18, 2013

Chairman Crumb called the regular meeting of the Pentwater Township Cemetery Advisory Committee to order at 3:00 p.m.

Members present: Damon Crumb, Myrna Carlin, Terry O'Grady, Jim Ege, Dean Holub

Members absent: None

REVIEW & ACTION: AGENDA

A motion was made by Member Crumb and duly seconded by Member O'Grady to approve the agenda as submitted. Voice vote. Aye: 5 Nay: 0. Motion carried.

REVIEW & ACTION: MINUTES OF THE JULY 31, 2013 CEMETERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

A motion was made by Member Carlin and duly seconded by Member Ege to approve the minutes of the July 31, 2013 Cemetery Advisory Committee meeting as submitted. Voice vote. Aye: 5 Nay: 0. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Review & Discussion: Draft Cemetery Ordinance

Chairman Crumb referred members to a draft of the revised Pentwater Township Cemetery Ordinance. He stated that the draft had been prepared by a subcommittee consisting of two members of the Committee and two members of the Township Board. Members entered into a discussion reviewing each section. After reviewing each Section of the Ordinance, the following changes were recommended:

Section II. B. Delete the word, "adult" in the first line

Section II. C. Delete the words, "or infant burial" in the first line

Section II. C. Change the size of a cremation space to "four (4) feet by eight (8) feet"

Section III. A. Amend the paragraph to read, "Cemetery lots or burial spaces shall only be sold to property taxpayers of the Township of Pentwater for the purpose of the burial of such purchaser and/or his or her immediate family members. The Township Board, however, is hereby granted the authority to vary the aforesaid restriction on sales where the purchaser discloses sufficient personal reason for burial within the Township through previous property ownership in the Township of Pentwater or relationship to a person interred therein. In the latter case, the Township may charge a non-taxpayer rate for the purchase of a burial lot or space and associated burial costs."

Section VI. E. Delete the requirement for only permitting flush markers in the cremain burial areas subject to review and recommendation by the Cemetery Sexton. NOTE: If approved, this paragraph could be eliminated in its entirety.

Section XII. Revise the sentence to read, "All traditional and cremain burials shall be within a standard or oversized concrete, metal, fiberglass or other similar material vault installed in each burial space before interment."

Fee Schedule. Add a footnote to read, "Non-Township Property Taxpayer rates as outlined may be applied in the event of Township Board action pursuant to the provisions in Section III. A."

Following further discussion, a motion was made by Member Holub to recommend approval of the draft of the Cemetery Ordinance as amended. The motion died for lack of support.

More discussion ensued and It was the consensus of the members that a final draft of the Ordinance including the preceding proposed amendments be submitted to the Committee for subsequent recommendation to the Township Board at a special meeting to be held at a later date in conjunction with review and recommendation of the final Landscape Design Plan for the Cemetery.

Subcommittee Reports

Landscape Design Plan Subcommittee

Chairman Crumb distributed the minutes of the Landscape Design Subcommittee meeting on September 11, 2013 prepared by Craig Hondorp of Progressive AE. He said that the Subcommittee reviewed two alternate landscape design plan concepts at the meeting as well as a cost estimate for each. He stated that the Subcommittee outlined preferred elements of each plan. He said that Mr. Hondorp will prepare a composite final revised plan concept based upon comments provided by the Subcommittee at the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Review & Action: Communication from Pentwater Garden Club

Chairman Crumb referred members to a communication from the Pentwater Garden Club regarding a request to include the Cemetery in the Club's 2014 Blooming Arts Garden Walk. There was general discussion of the request and it was the consensus of members to send a letter of approval to the request that the Cemetery be included in the Garden Club's 2014 Blooming Arts Garden Walk on Saturday, July 19, 2014. It was suggested that a letter be sent to all funeral homes in the area apprising them of the subject date, as well as the date of the annual open house during Homecoming.

OTHER ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Member Holub distributed a communication from Wickstra Realty regarding a 17.4 acre parcel of land for sale immediately east of the Cemetery. He stated that the Township Board had reviewed the notice and indicated that due to the wetland condition of the subject parcel, the only way that the Township would be interested in acquiring the property would be through a donation. Members concurred that the property would not be conducive to potential expansion of the Cemetery.

Member Ege stated that he would be glad to contact the Ludington Fine Arts group to obtain details and information regarding utilizing period actors at next year's open house event.

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Cemetery Advisory Committee is March 26, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dean Holub, Secretary