

Town Council: June Sager Speakman (arrived at 9:55 A.M.), Kate G. Weymouth, Ann P. Strong, Michael W. Carroll (departed at 10:40 A.M.) and Steve Primiano  
Cemetery Committee: John MacIntyre, Sally Small and Robert Black  
Also Present: Town Manager Peter A. DeAngelis, Jr., and Town Clerk Meredith J. DeSisto

Mrs. Weymouth called the Town Council meeting to order at 9:03 A.M.  
Mr. MacIntyre called the Cemetery Commission meeting to order at 9:03 A.M.

Town Manager Peter DeAngelis explained why he requested a joint meeting of the Town Council and the Cemetery Commission. Mr. DeAngelis stated that he has voiced his concerns with the working relationship between the three members of the Cemetery Commission and the relationship between the Town Council and the Cemetery Commission, as well as, his concerns for procedural issues between the Town Clerk's office and the Cemetery Commission.

Mrs. Weymouth stated she is concerned with a recent expenditure of the Cemetery Commission and is seeking clarification. Mrs. Weymouth stated that it came to her attention that a motion was made at a meeting of the Cemetery Commission that was held on November 12, 2014.

Mr. Primiano read from the Cemetery Commission minutes of November 12, 2014:

"Because the Town has shown increasing interest in taking control of the financial decisions of the Commission, and there is an apparent conflict of opinions regarding Commission's authority and the "intent of the gift", Mrs. Small moved the Barrington Cemetery Commission seek a legal opinion on the status, responsibilities, and authority of the Commission from an attorney who specializes in charitable trusts, including costs of same. Mr. Black and Mr. MacIntyre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously."

Mr. Primiano stated that his understanding is that some of the members believed that they were voting on endorsing the concept and not to actually hire an attorney before they conducted a search for a specific attorney.

Mr. MacIntyre stated that his understanding was that they would "look into it" then proceed with the hiring. Mr. MacIntyre stated he felt that the answers to questions that were being sought were not necessary.

Mr. Black stated he believed that there would be a search for the attorney, a meeting to interview and then a consultation period before deciding on the hiring of the attorney.

Mr. Carroll asked if it was true that it was decided at the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to ask specific questions. Mr. Black and Mr. MacIntyre stated that that was not true.

Discussion ensued regarding the specifics of the Cemetery Commission according to the Town Charter and the process of an RFP (Request for Proposal).

Mrs. Small stated that time was of the essence and that the Cemetery Commission was to make a decision to purchase property located at 139 George Street. Mrs. Small stated that she hired an attorney that had experience with charitable trusts. She said that she was concerned with Mr. Peck's endowment and felt strongly that Mr. Peck gave the donation for a specific purpose.

Mr. Primiano stated that the intent was to hire an attorney but stated he believes Mrs. Small got ahead of herself and hired the attorney. Mr. Primiano stated that there are specific procedures when you are a member of a public authority. Discussion ensued regarding open meetings policies and procedures.

Mr. DeAngelis asked the members of the Cemetery Commission if they could work together and meet the responsibilities of the Cemetery Commission. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Speakman arrived at 9:55 A.M.

Mrs. Weymouth stated that one of the questions that were contained on the 2014 General Election ballot asked for an increase in the membership to the Cemetery Commission, as well as, authorizing the Town Manager to oversee the legal procedures for the Cemetery Commission. Discussion ensued regarding the Cemetery Commission, the Town Managers responsibilities and the role of the Finance Director with regard to investments for the Cemetery Commission.

Mr. Carroll suggested that going forward that procedures must be followed according to the legal requirements and state law.

Discussion ensued with the day-to-day operations of the Cemetery Commission and the role of the Chair in relationship with the Superintendent of Cemeteries. Mr. MacIntyre stated that there are many times that the Superintendent calls him to make a decision regarding the cemeteries (landscaping, interments, etc.). Mr. MacIntyre stated that once a decision is made it is discussed at the next meeting.

Mrs. Speakman stated that she is concerned with future volunteers and the role that they will have in the day-to-day activities of the cemeteries. Mrs. Speakman said for this reason she would like to see the Town Manager and other administrators given more authority to provide for the day-to-day activities but it is difficult because of the Town Charter.

Mr. DeAngelis asked the members of the Cemetery Commission if they all intend to complete their terms. Mr. Black stated that he would like to continue because he believes that he can provide the skills and manage the resources for the Cemetery Commission. Mr. MacIntyre stated that he was very upset when the attorney was hired. He stated he believed that he was voting on a motion to "seek" and not to hire an attorney. Mr. McIntyre stated that his term is up in November 2015 and is strongly considering his reappointment. Mrs. Small stated that she has a moral obligation to respect Mr. Peck's donation and would like to continue to keep the records. Mrs. Small said that she is very concerned that each Charter Review Commission has tried to make changes regarding the interpretation of the endowment in connection with the Town Charter.

Mrs. Strong suggested that each member review the open meetings video and attend the forum that is presented in the month of August.

Discussion ensued regarding final dispositions and/or deeds and heirs. Mrs. Small stated that on occasion that this subject has been brought to the state level and she will investigate further.

Mr. Carroll left the meeting at 10:40 A.M.

Mr. Primiano adjourned the Town Council meeting at 10:45 A.M.

Mr. Black adjourned the Cemetery Commission meeting at 10:45 A.M.

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Meredith J. DeSisto, Town Clerk