

**MINUTES**  
**MARKHAM CEMETERY BOARD**  
**May 9, 2017**

**3:00 PM – Ontario Room**

Attendance: Lorne Smith, Chair, John Byer, David Smith, and Doug Watt

Staff: Vanessa Rhodes, Acting Access & Privacy Manager

Regrets: Bruce Vander Bent and Marion Zeltins,

Item	Discussion	Action Item
1. Call to Order & Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest	<p>The meeting of the Markham Cemetery Board was called to order at 3:17 PM with Lorne Smith presiding as Chair.</p> <p>No disclosure of pecuniary interest was declared.</p>	
2. Approval of minutes from the November 8, 2016 Markham Cemetery Board Meeting.	<p>MOVED BY: John Byer SECONDED BY: Doug Watt</p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting of the Markham Cemetery Board of November 8, 2016 be approved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>	
3. CEMETERY SIGNAGE	<p>The City received an updated quote for the cemetery signs. It was discussed that the font colour on the additional cemetery signs should be black instead of the beige coloured font that was used for the Buttonville cemetery sign as the beige coloured font is difficult to read.</p> <p>The vendor will contact John Byer prior to installing the signs to ensure they are installed at the correct location of each cemetery.</p>	

4. Information on St John's Buttonville Cemetery	Vanessa advised that there is no update from the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) regarding this cemetery at this point. Once the City meets with the BAO to discuss this further, an update will be provided to the Board.	
5. Fencing	<p>A wooden fence has been installed at Quantztown cemetery.</p> <p>The fence at Eckardt cemetery has not yet been repaired. It was discussed that CP is working to repair the fence. Vanessa will follow up regarding the status of the repairs and expected date of completion. Members raised the concern that the entire fence at Eckardt is deteriorated, and therefore the entire fence should be replaced.</p>	<p>Vanessa to identify a budget to replace the entire fence at Eckardt.</p> <p>John will draft a fence report to identify the requirements for the fence at Eckardt cemetery.</p>
6. Canada 150 Proposals	<p>The committee discussed the three Canada 150 proposal items that were identified at the November 8, 2016 meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clean white stones in Cashel &amp; Quantztown <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lorne Smith contacted Graham Fretz to determine the cost for cleaning the white stones at Cashel &amp; Quantztown cemeteries. Graham provided a quote for \$60 per stone.</li> <li>• Lorne and John will visit Quantztown to identify the number of stones that require cleaning. It is estimated that there may be approximately 50 stones that require cleaning.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Historic designation of all City of Markham cemeteries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vanessa will speak to Regan Hutcheson to determine the process for designating the cemeteries as historic designations</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Grave markers for Markham Veterans for Remembrance Day, 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lorne will contact Michael Blackburn to assist in designing Canada 150 markers to recognize Markham Veterans.</li> <li>• It was noted that the grave markers will be removable and not permanent fixtures, for example, a Canada 150 flag and a poppy.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	Vanessa to identify a budget for the cleaning of stones.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vanessa advised that the BAO's position regarding marking graves requires public notification before any markings can take place. The public notification would include a letter to the last known address, notices at the cemeteries, and notices in newspapers.</li> </ul> <p>3. Get new fences installed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The committee would like to have new fences installed at all cemeteries.</li> </ul>	
7. Increasing Plot Pricing	<p>The committee noted that plot pricing across City of Markham cemeteries should be reviewed as the prices have not increased to accommodate the increasing cost of maintenance.</p> <p>Motion:</p> <p>That the City of Markham increase cemetery plot prices to \$1,200.  That the City of Markham increase cremation plot prices to \$650.  And that the City of Markham increase cornerstone prices to \$250.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Moved by David Smith  Seconded by Doug Watt  CARRIED.</p>	Vanessa to review the process for increasing plot prices.
8. New Business	<p>Lorne Smith advised that the City's Legal Department reached out to him to discuss the ownership of Bethel-Lunau cemetery. The City's title search indicated that it is owned by "Trustees of Evangelical Association", however the City's bylaw identifies this cemetery under the city's ownership. Lorne advised that the City owns this cemetery as the Trustees of Evangelical Association has not been in existence since before 1900. Therefore, the City should begin the process for the title change.</p> <p>John Byer advised that the City's website should be updated to identify only cemeteries that have available plots for sale. Therefore, John suggests the following cemeteries be removed from the City's website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eckardt</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buttonville</li> <li>• Haggerman West</li> </ul> <p>John informed the committee that First Baptist Church cemetery is the only cemetery that has available plots for sale, and therefore should be the only cemetery listed on the City's website.</p> <p>John provided an update on the 2016 cemetery plot sales to the committee, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 29 full burials</li> <li>• 34 cremations</li> </ul> <p>Vanessa will speak to Laura Gold regarding recruiting new members to the Cemetery Board.</p> <p>The Next meeting of the Cemetery Board will be held on August 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM.</p>	
9. Adjournment	The meeting of the Cemetery Board adjourned at 4:11 PM.	