

Sharps Meeting August 9, 2022

Attendees: Tom S., Jerry H., Pam G., Bud M., Dan S., Mary V – Recording Secretary

Monument and burial fees for Walls received. Tom has a check to pass on to Pam and had a call with the family to verify the location on the four lots owned.

Monument policy is wife on left, husband on right with writing facing the road – is not enforced. Certain areas do not comply and new internments often go with what is currently in the area. Monument companies are responsible for installs.

All recent burial locations have been identified and documented on the site map.

Tom had a call today from a monument company in Quarryville regarding the Vendrick green burial. An upright monument has been requested by the family and a rough drawing of the stone was provided. This was the first green burial in the north section which is to be used exclusively for this type of burial. At a special March 4th meeting about green burials information was reviewed for policy development and the following note was taken for this purpose.

Corner markers would be needed right away and only flat markers would be allowed vs. traditional standing headstones. Flat marking would aid with future location issues, also reduce the effort required for mowing and weed whacking in that area.

The neighbors of the Vendricks have contacted Jerry for a purchase of two green burial lots and he is meeting with them on site tomorrow morning. He will state the policy of flat markers in this discussion and will contact the Vendricks about their monument. Tom will contact the monument company as well regarding this issue.

Flat markers as well as no vaults align with the green burial purpose, future landscaping and maintenance of this portion of the cemetery. Much information has been provided regarding practice and policy of existing green burial sites which is helpful in developing policy for this site. Foundations for flat markers and positioning is a concern that needs to be addressed. No limit on size other than the intended lot size. Requiring the markers to all be the same size would enhance the ease of maintenance and the overall look of the site.

Dan is researching natural environments that age well in longevity such as high grass, clover and wild flowers. The meadow at Long Wood Gardens was discussed. This would need mowing only several times a year versus weekly. Flat markers and paths or wide swaths would allow access for visitors, boulders, benches and an enforced practice of no plastic or silk flowers and no other adornments allowed.

Dan visited the site on Saturday and was impressed with how good it looked compared to Elkton cemetery. Bob W is responsible for much of this filling in a big sink hole with a large amount of dirt before any incidents occurred.

Now is the time for planning since three lots have been sold with the potential for two more. Spacing of new sales is a concern as well as a procedure to transition the existing grass by overseeding and planting native plants. Dan will provide more information and a possible presentation at a future meeting. Edging and signage with information regarding the green burial portion of the site would be needed.

Jerry spoke with Aimee this morning who is traveling and could not attend the meeting. There is issue with weed whacking around the monuments and damage to plastic and silk flowers and flags with wooden posts in the ground. The current policy is being violated and not enforced. A site inventory is suggested to determine what should go and the removal of all identified items. Calls to lot owners explaining the policy and removal. Flags could be supported with metal supports.

Maddox is doing a great job with the maintenance in spite of the issues and is currently mowing the north section every week as it is the easiest section with no obstructions. Discussion was placed around the possible higher installation of the flat markers in this green burial section, that would allow mowing and decrease the amount of time for sinking.