

Sharps Meeting March 4, 2022 – Green Burials

Attendees: Tom S, Jerry H, Pam G, Bud M, Bill A and Mary V – Recording Secretary

Aimee M and Franklin M sent regrets, but yes votes for green burials

This topic was raised at the last meeting for consideration. Since that time, Jerry received one request on the website for a green burial. Timing is critical in this case. Requester has immediate need for husband and would need two additional lots for family.

Information provided by Pam from Green Burials MD website and reviewed by all prior to this meeting.

Benefits include cost factor for more affordable services as well as better for the environment than traditional burial practices.

Soil survey map shows Sharp's location to be moderately well drained and poses no flooding issues.

Tom spoke with Mike Sartin and Beth Cooper regarding the digging and vault needs. There is no regulation in Maryland requiring vaults. Bottomless vaults discussed, basic vault, upside down with no lid. Shroud, whicker or wooden box containing the body would need to be in contact with ground for decomposition.

We would be the only location in Cecil County offering this service.

Maintenance issue with sink holes a concern. Depth of burial at 2 to 4 feet vs. traditional 6 feet lessens the probability, but future work may be required as needed to maintain the area. Not more expected than with traditional burials.

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 and also reduce the effort required for mowing and weed whacking in that area.

Lot sizes would remain the same at 4x9 feet with same price. Space would be dedicated in the north section at the top by extending existing rows over to that area. Row 36 north to start.

Mounds over burial sites would be slight as with traditional burials. Will need to incorporate all details into policies for future requests if the practice is adopted.

The vote was 5 yes and 3 no without vaults. It was agreed to take this request as a trial test and see how it goes.

Jerry will communicate with requestor who is working with the funeral home to obtain details such as who will dig and when this will take place. A possible meeting at the location to review the lots will also be offered. Will provide more information via e-mail as it becomes available.

