



Cemeteries FY17 Budget Performance Report

Fiscal Year to Date 06/30/17

Only Show Rollup Account and Rollup to Account

Account				Account Description								Budget		Amendments		Budget		Current Month		Last Year		YTD		YTD		Budget - YTD		% Used/			
												Budget		Amendments		Budget		Transactions		Transactions		Encumbrances		Transactions		Transactions		Rec'd		Prior Year Total	
Fund 101 - General Fund																															
REVENUE																															
Department 23 - Parks and Recreation																															
Division 100 - Parks																															
Program 239 - Cemeteries																															
4275				Rent & Lease								5,000.00		.00		5,000.00		2,125.00		350.00		.00		2,475.00		2,525.00		50		900.00	
4310				Sales Of Cemetary Lots								75,000.00		.00		75,000.00		10,830.00		2,374.00		.00		73,004.00		1,996.00		97		75,332.00	
4315				Burials								65,000.00		.00		65,000.00		3,400.00		5,400.00		.00		56,400.00		8,600.00		87		59,750.00	
4330				Foundations								.00		.00		.00		200.00		230.00		.00		960.00		(960.00)		+++		845.00	
4600				Fees For Services								2,000.00		.00		2,000.00		200.00		500.00		.00		1,700.00		300.00		85		3,900.00	
4950				Donations								.00		.00		.00		.00		.00		.00		138.50		(138.50)		+++		150.00	
4990				Interfund Transfer Proceeds								10,000.00		.00		10,000.00		13,617.26		19,803.66		.00		13,617.26		(3,617.26)		136		29,302.83	
				Program 239 - Cemeteries Totals								\$157,000.00		\$0.00		\$157,000.00		\$30,372.26		\$28,657.66		\$0.00		\$148,294.76		\$8,705.24		94%		\$170,179.83	
				Division 100 - Parks Totals								\$157,000.00		\$0.00		\$157,000.00		\$30,372.26		\$28,657.66		\$0.00		\$148,294.76		\$8,705.24		94%		\$170,179.83	
				Department 23 - Parks and Recreation Totals								\$157,000.00		\$0.00		\$157,000.00		\$30,372.26		\$28,657.66		\$0.00		\$148,294.76		\$8,705.24		94%		\$170,179.83	
				REVENUE TOTALS								\$157,000.00		\$0.00		\$157,000.00		\$30,372.26		\$28,657.66		\$0.00		\$148,294.76		\$8,705.24		94%		\$170,179.83	
EXPENSE																															
Department 23 - Parks and Recreation																															
Division 100 - Parks																															
Program 239 - Cemeteries																															
5000				Salaries and Wages								121,298.00		.00		121,298.00		20,491.56		19,872.01		.00		146,961.98		(25,663.98)		121		144,272.67	
5100				Overtime								6,000.00		.00		6,000.00		540.78		636.58		.00		5,814.20		185.80		97		5,877.70	
5200				Other Personal Service								4,550.00		.00		4,550.00		390.00		768.63		.00		5,139.94		(589.94)		113		5,658.08	
6000				Office Supplies								600.00		.00		600.00		21.45		.00		311.89		121.01		167.10		72		106.41	
6005				Postage								160.00		.00		160.00		.00		.00		.00		154.00		6.00		96		158.00	
6202				Printing/Copying/Paper Mgt								100.00		.00		100.00		.00		.00		.00		.00		100.00		0		.00	
6203				Dues/Subscriptions								300.00		84.00		384.00		359.00		.00		.00		384.00		.00		100		256.99	
6206				Custodian Supplies								350.00		(350.00)		.00		.00		.00		.00		.00		.00		+++		.00	
6208				Special Supplies								1,000.00		(84.00)		916.00		.00		.00		.00		105.80		810.20		12		107.80	
6210				Small Tools and Equipment								500.00		.00		500.00		83.08		.00		.00		83.08		416.92		17		125.58	



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		Adopted	Budget	Amended	Current Month	Last Year	YTD	YTD	Budget - YTD	% Used/	
Account	Account Description	Budget	Amendments	Budget	Transactions	Transactions	Encumbrances	Transactions	Transactions	Rec'd	Prior Year Total
EXPENSE											
	Department 00 - Non-Departmental										
	Division 000 - Admin										
7900	Interfund Transfer	.00	.00	.00	13,617.26	19,803.66	.00	13,617.26	(13,617.26)	+++	29,302.83
	Division 000 - Admin Totals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,617.26	\$19,803.66	\$0.00	\$13,617.26	(\$13,617.26)	+++	\$29,302.83
	Department 00 - Non-Departmental Totals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,617.26	\$19,803.66	\$0.00	\$13,617.26	(\$13,617.26)	+++	\$29,302.83
	EXPENSE TOTALS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,617.26	\$19,803.66	\$0.00	\$13,617.26	(\$13,617.26)	+++	\$29,302.83
	Fund 501 - Perpetual Care Totals										
	REVENUE TOTALS	.00	.00	.00	571.58	25,283.49	.00	17,463.26	(17,463.26)	+++	30,198.10
	EXPENSE TOTALS	.00	.00	.00	13,617.26	19,803.66	.00	13,617.26	(13,617.26)	+++	29,302.83
	Fund 501 - Perpetual Care Totals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$13,045.68)	\$5,479.83	\$0.00	\$3,846.00	(\$3,846.00)		\$895.27
	Grand Totals										
	REVENUE TOTALS	157,000.00	.00	157,000.00	30,943.84	53,941.15	.00	165,758.02	(8,758.02)	106	200,377.93
	EXPENSE TOTALS	193,308.00	.00	193,308.00	36,890.24	43,317.46	1,638.56	215,546.86	(23,877.42)	112	253,124.41
	Grand Totals	(\$36,308.00)	\$0.00	(\$36,308.00)	(\$5,946.40)	\$10,623.69	(\$1,638.56)	(\$49,788.84)	\$15,119.40		(\$52,746.48)

No. 19. An act relating to burial depth in cemeteries.

(H.3)

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 5319(b) is amended to read:

(b)(1) Interment of any human body in the earth shall not be made unless the distance from the bottom of the outside coffin or body shall be at least ~~five~~ three and one-half feet below the natural surface of the ground, ~~excepting only infants under four years of age, whose bodies shall be so interred that the bottom of the outside coffin enclosing them shall be at least three and one-half feet below the natural surface of the ground or if buried without a coffin shall be so interred that the bottom of the body shall be at least five feet below the natural surface of the ground.~~ Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit the interment of a human body at a depth greater than three and one-half feet below the surface of the ground.

* * *

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

Date Governor signed bill: May 4, 2017

The Meadow Natural Burial Ground

At
Greenacres Memorial Park



Systems & Operations Manual

**The Meadow Natural Burial Ground
At
Greenacres Memorial Park
Systems & Operations Manual**

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The Meadow Natural Burial Ground at Greenacres Memorial Park

Systems & Operations Manual

Mission

The mission of The Meadow Natural Burial Ground is to create a natural and meaningful memorial landscape that is a thriving native ecosystem contributing to both the ecological and social health of the surrounding community.

The following information, standards, and guidelines, which incorporate the best practices to date, are intended to support this mission. If, at anytime, they are deemed as being counterproductive to this end, or if better practices come to light, this document will be reviewed and updated.

The Meadow is certified by the Green Burial Council as a Natural Burial Ground and meets or exceeds all standards for this certification.

Burial Containers

All burial containers placed in The Meadow must be 100% biodegradable and non-toxic. Metal caskets and fasteners, synthetic linings, formaldehyde glues, and high VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) finishes are prohibited. All caskets must be constructed from wood, grasses, reeds, bamboo or other natural materials. All burial shrouds must be made of natural plant or animal fibers. Outer burial containers, such as concrete liners, metal vaults, partitions and slabs are prohibited

Embalming

Decedents must not have been embalmed, or have been embalmed only with nontoxic products approved by the Green Burial Council.

Burial Density and Plot Size

Burial density, as it is plotted in The Meadow, is approximately 300 burials per acre, as opposed to approximately 1000 burials per acre in a traditional setting. This density level serves a dual purpose: (a) it lowers the concentration of nutrients being placed in the soil to a sustainable level, and (b) also creates enough room for grounds crews to excavate new graves alongside of existing burials without disturbing those remains.

All plots in The Meadow are 6 feet by 12 feet. The entire 72 square feet is not excavated during the opening of graves. Instead, the excavation is large enough to accommodate only the burial container and is located as close to the center of the grave as possible.

Excavation and Burial Techniques

The topsoil and sand stratum that comprise the soil at Greenacres Memorial Park are segregated from each other during excavation of graves to ensure replacement in the appropriate order. This practice is standard throughout Greenacres Memorial Park

All burials in The Meadow occur at a depth of approximately 4 to 4½ feet, thereby ensuring that the nutrient layer is raised to a higher soil stratum where microbes and oxygen can expedite the decomposition process. Since the smell barrier is 18 inches of soil, anything covered by 18 inches or more of soil will be undetectable to human or animal noses (with the exception of bears, which is not an issue in The Meadow). With a burial depth of 4 feet and a 2 to 3 foot mound of earth above, each burial is covered by approximately 60 inches of soil.

To further assist the decomposition process, the bottom of each grave is lined with a 1 to 2 inch thick layer of woodchips or beauty bark prior to the placement of the burial container. When closing the grave, the first layer of backfill is biomass. This biomass consists of grass cuttings, leaves, small sticks, cut flowers, compost or any other non-hazardous plant material that is readily available on the grounds (nothing is imported), and will comprise approximately 20% of the backfill material. The purpose of wood chips and biomass is to inoculate the grave with oxygen and microbes, thereby hastening the decomposition process and creating “microbe channels” which

draw nutrients up to the native plantings and prevent seepage into the ground water. The natural strata of sand and topsoil are then replaced in their respective order.

Earth is mounded approximately 2 to 3 feet above every interment. This practice has a threefold purpose: first, it accommodates the natural settling of the ground above an unlined grave; second, the burial mound provides a visual cue for the grounds crew, preventing them from driving any equipment over an unlined grave; third, the burial mound creates an archetypal structure that is readily recognized for what it is and serves to mark a grave for families that choose to forego permanent memorialization.

To further assist grounds crews negotiating equipment through The Meadow without disturbing existing burials, all plots have been grouped radially around the walking paths in rows of three. The middle row of each grouping is out of inventory until the two outside rows have been filled in with burials. These "not for sale" middle rows provide access alleys for excavation equipment. When the outside rows become full and no longer need to be accessed, plots in the middle row will come into inventory and be available for purchase one at a time on an at-need basis. This practice allows the grounds crew to back their way down the middle row one burial at a time, thus ensuring that no remains will ever be disturbed.

Families and loved ones are allowed and encouraged to participate in the closing of the grave should they choose. If families and loved ones choose to close the grave either in part or completely, a cemetery staff member who is familiar with this manual and the techniques described herein will be present as a facilitator.

NOTE: due to the nature of burials in The Meadow as described above, disinterment of remains is not possible.

Memorialization

River Rocks

Permanent memorialization is available in the form of engraved river rocks. Two boulder sizes, individual (100 – 200 lbs.) and companion (300 – 500 lbs.) are available. Individual markers can accommodate inscriptions for one person, and companion markers can accommodate inscriptions for two people. River rocks, which are varied and natural in form and gathered, rather than coming from a quarry, conform to the natural aesthetic as well as the environmental specifications of The Meadow. For these reasons, permanent memorialization is limited to this option in The Meadow.

Living Memorials

For each burial that occurs in The Meadow, a "guild" of three native plantings can be planted as a living memorial. A "guild" contains 1 tree, 1 shrub, and 1 groundcover. These plantings are selected from the list of acceptable native species generated by Northwest Ecological Services as part of the biological evaluation of The Meadow Natural Burial Ground.

Although families can choose any tree, shrub, and groundcover from the list, they are encouraged to select 3 companion species which have been grouped together because of their propensity to support each other against pests. These "guilds" of companion memorial plantings become part of the Integrated Pest Management Plan for The Meadow.

To prevent root encroachment and plant damage during future excavations memorial plantings are placed only in specifically designated areas with the approval of cemetery staff. To give memorial plantings the best opportunity for survival, all plantings will take place in either early spring or fall depending on plant selections.

Families and loved ones are encouraged to participate in the planting of living memorials at pre-arranged times. Tree plugs and 1 to 5 gallon starts are provided by Greenacres Memorial Park at no additional costs to families. Families are welcome to provide their own plantings from the list of acceptable species should they so choose.

In keeping with the restoration of The Meadow as a native ecosystem and the need to limit plantings to specifically designated areas, any unauthorized and or non-native plants will be removed immediately upon discovery.

Floral Displays

Floral displays on graves are permitted, but limited to fresh cut flowers which have had all non-biodegradable materials, such as plastic wrap and ribbons removed. No artificial flowers or plants, potted plants, boxes, toys, artwork, ornaments, chairs, or similar articles will be permitted. Exceptions are made for Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day.

All holiday embellishments and decorations must be removed by families within one week following the holiday, after which time, they will be removed by cemetery staff. Cemetery staff cannot be held responsible for any items left on graves.

Maintenance

The Meadow is kept as a natural landscape. Mowing is employed only to maintain walking paths and to manage invasive species. Pruning is done only to remove potential hazards. Fertilizing and irrigation are not permitted. Herbicides will be used only if and when deemed necessary to manage or eradicate invasive species.

Restoration and Conservation

In 2008, Northwest Ecological Services LLC conducted a biological evaluation and impact analysis on The Meadow (this document is available for review upon request). Based on their findings, NES LLC declared in their report that "The Natural Burial Ground at Greenacres Memorial Park is not expected to impact rare, priority, threatened, or endangered species or their habitats. Instead, developing a Natural Burial Ground is likely to improve the suitability for wildlife foraging and nesting."

The biological evaluation and impact analysis revealed a seasonal high water table and aquifer recharge area at the north end of The Meadow. For this reason, and with the intention of protecting ground water, no full body burials will ever take place in this portion of The Meadow.

Instead, this northern-most part of The Meadow is being held for development as an area for the disposition of cremated remains. The size and depth of graves required for this purpose, and the inert non-toxic nature of cremated remains means that this use will have no impact on groundwater. Any and all development for the burial of cremated remains will be consistent with the practices, standards, and guidelines contained in this document.

A species inventory was conducted as part of the biological evaluation. A number of non-native, invasive, and noxious species were cataloged, the most notable being himalayan blackberry, common tansy, and a variety of pasture grasses. As native plantings take hold they will slowly push out the pasture grasses with the aid of human intervention. Eradication of the tansy and blackberry pose a greater challenge as well as a higher priority.

Common Tansy can be managed and eradicated with regular mowing 4 or 5 times during a growing season for 4 or 5 years, and as such will be mowed once a month during the months of May, June, July, August, and September until eradicated.

Himalayan Blackberry is perhaps the most pervasive of invasive species in the Pacific Northwest. Due to sizable blackberry patches on properties adjacent to The Meadow, the plant may never be eradicated. In holding with the Integrated Pest Management Plan, the goal for the himalayan blackberry is management at an acceptable level. An acceptable level is considered as containing the blackberries to the perimeters of The Meadow. As of this writing, several different methods of management are being explored. These methods include, but are not limited to, the use of goats, manual root pulling, regular mowing with a brush hog, and limited use of herbicides.

Several small communities of scotch broom were also discovered. In the spring of 2009, all of the scotch broom, including roots, was pulled by hand. Each spring any returning scotch broom and roots will be pulled by hand until it has been eradicated.

With the exception of pasture grasses, which are present throughout The Meadow, the majority of invasive species are concentrated in the north half of The Meadow.

The south half of The Meadow is dominated by a large native bracken fern community that also contains native species such as snowberry, baldhip rose, fireweed and spirea. A small, mixed canopy, native forest is located at the southern boundary of The Meadow.

The restoration and conservation plan for The Meadow calls for opening only one small section for interments at a time. The intent is to concentrate excavations and native memorial plantings in one area and then to close the area, allowing nature and native species to take over while intense human interaction with the landscape moves on to other areas. Under this plan, when an active section of The Meadow approaches the point of being sold out, the next interment area will be placed into inventory.

The first section open for burials is Forest's Edge. As the name implies, this section is adjacent to the native forest at the south end of The Meadow. This area also has the greatest concentration of existing native species and the lowest concentration of invasive species. Because of these factors, a high degree of success is anticipated for slowly replacing invasive species with native plants in this section.

The next section to be opened up for burials will be adjacent to Forest's Edge. The intent of this plan is to slowly draw out the existing native ecosystem, while at the same time working to clear the way for this process by removing and managing invasive species.

Conclusion:

The Meadow Natural Burial Ground, Greenacres Memorial Park, and Moles Family Funeral Homes are committed to developing and upholding the highest standards, ethics, and best practices in offering Natural Burial.

This Systems & Operations Manual will serve that end, and as such will be provided to all employees, vendors, contractors, and funeral providers conducting business in The Meadow Natural Burial Ground. Additionally, the Manual is a public document and will be made available to any interested parties.

The Meadow Natural Burial Ground at Greenacres Memorial Park: Systems & Operations Manual
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First Edition

For information and permission to reproduce this document in part or in whole, please contact Greenacres Memorial Park and Moles Family Funeral Homes & Crematory, 5700 Northwest Dr., Ferndale, WA 98248. (360) 384-3401

Fees

Burials (no Burials on Sundays)*

Type of Burial:	Mon.-Fri.	Sat. & Holidays
Casket Burial	\$900.00	\$1,500.00
Urn Burial	\$500.00	\$700.00
Child Casket Burial	\$500.00	\$700.00
Columbarium Inurnment	\$500.00	\$700.00
Mausoleum, Casket.....	\$900.00	\$1,500.00
Mausoleum, Urn	\$500.00	\$700.00

Other Interment-related Charges

Additional charge for arrival after 2:00 pm	\$100.00	\$100.00
Erecting Tent.....	\$150.00 (after 2:00 pm: \$200)	

*Payable at time of scheduling interment; pre-payment not allowed, with the exception of UVM Medical School Anatomical Gift Donors.

Lot Purchase and Care

Type of Lot:	Owner: Burlington Resident	Non-Resident
Single Grave Lot, Single Section 1	\$700.00	\$1,200.00
Single Grave Lot, all Lakeview lots except Single Section 1 and Oak Annex	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
Single Grave Lot, Oak Annex	\$2,500.00	\$3,200.00
Single Urn Lot, Howard Cremation Garden (lettering not included)	350.00	450.00
Two-Urn Niche, South Columbarium (lettering not included)	\$2,250.00	\$3,000.00
Baby Lot in Baby Section of Section 4	\$250.00	\$350.00

Monuments & Markers

Monument Foundation Layout	\$50.00
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Edging, sod removal and Marker installation:

Flat Marker 24x12	\$30.00
Flat Marker 36x12	\$45.00
Flat Marker 48x12	\$60.00
Corner Markers (each)	\$20.00
Granite or Bronze Flat Government Marker	no charge

(Cemetery does not install markers to be glued to headstones—it is the Lot Owner's responsibility to arrange for this service.)

Winter Casket Storage

Minimum charge for 30 days or less	\$100.00
After 30 days: removal within 15 days	\$25.00
removal between 15 and 30 days	\$50.00
Additional charge after July 1 (per day, per casket)	\$50.00

(No charge for storage of caskets to be buried in City-Owned Cemeteries.)

Louisa Howard Chapel Rental

Weekdays, start time before 2:00 pm	\$100.00 per hour
Weekends, Holidays, or start time after 2:00 pm (3-hour minimum on Weekends & Holidays)	\$150.00 per hour
Rental with interment on same day, regardless of day or start time	\$100.00 per hour

Events

Events hosted at City-owned Cemeteries must be considered appropriate activities and organizers must obtain permission from the Cemetery Office. Organizers of all *non-City-sponsored* events that require an admission fee or solicit donations for their organization must pay a \$25 Permit Fee, plus a \$1/per participant Impact Fee.

Three and a Half Feet Under: Cemeteries Are Wary of Green Burials

By **TERRI HALLENBECK @TERRIVT**

Fred Cheyette plans to be buried in a hayfield next to his house in the town of Orange. His body will be wrapped in a simple cotton sheet and placed three and a half feet deep in the earth, with an oak sapling planted atop the grave. "So my body feeds the tree," said the 86-year-old retired engineer and psychotherapist, who is peppier and more youthful looking than his years suggest.

Cheyette has arranged what is known as a green, or natural, burial — rejecting the standard procedures of cemetery interments. There will be no embalming, no varnished coffin, no concrete vault, no polished headstone. He wants his body in the dirt and close to the surface.

Despite a **state law that took effect this month** to make it easier for Vermonters to choose a green burial, Cheyette's arrangements are possible only because he will be buried on his own property. He received permission from his town's Board of Health. For others, planning a natural burial poses greater challenges: Advocates of green burials say they know of no cemeteries in Vermont that yet allow the green interments they envision.

Passing the new law — which allows burials at a mere three and a half feet, where a more active biological soil mix facilitates rapid and natural decomposition — appears to have been the easy part. Now, supporters of the practice have to persuade dozens of cemetery operators to change policies. Many Vermont cemeteries require a five-foot burial depth and that coffins be placed inside buried concrete vaults, rules that preclude the simpler burials.

But Michelle Acciavatti of Montpelier and a half dozen other green-burial advocates stand ready to convince cemetery operators to change their policies. They are forming a nonprofit organization, Green Burial Vermont, which will produce a manual of best practices. "The goal of the nonprofit is promoting environmental and socially conscious burials in Vermont," Acciavatti said. The group's efforts could change the traditional image of graveyards.

Carl Anderson of West Berkshire, a wildlife biologist who is a member of Green Burial Vermont, said he envisions existing cemeteries adding green sections, as well as new graveyards that will use proceeds from the sale of natural plots to conserve surrounding acres. The dead could share space with sugaring operations, tree farms or hayfields. But first, the organization has to allay a host of fears: that coyotes would scavenge for shallower, unprotected bodies; that some types of soils would inhibit decomposition; and that changing the layout of a graveyard to something other than rows of mowed grass dotted with shiny headstones would pose logistical challenges. "There are just unknowns," said Patrick Healy, manager of Montpelier's city cemeteries and president of the Vermont Cemetery Association. "We just want to know what the best practices are." "A lot of the pushback is coming from the cemetery operators," said Acciavatti, who toured the state last fall and winter advocating for the legal change. "There are a lot of misconceptions."

For Acciavatti, 34, dealing with death is a passion and a vocation. She runs a business called **Ending Well**, which offers end-of-life planning and counseling. She's also a hospice volunteer and co-facilitates a monthly "**death café**" in Montpelier, where attendees sip tea and converse about mortality. She set out to become a neuroscientist. Then two close friends died in accidents shortly after she graduated from college. A year later, she was in a close-call crash herself. "The first thing the trooper said was, 'You're so lucky you didn't die.' That percolated inside me for a while," Acciavatti said. Before she knew it, Acciavatti was making a business of the thing most people don't want to talk about. With a soothing, nonjudgmental manner, Acciavatti manages to make talking about death easy. She hopes to take such conversations out of the shadows and into living rooms and dining rooms. "I used to joke that I was constantly ruining holiday dinners," she said. "Now I'm everybody's death friend."

On a beautiful Tuesday evening in June, a dozen like-minded people gathered at a Montpelier tea shop for the death café. Heavy at times, the conversation also focused on uplifting moments families share as a loved one approaches the end. Cheyette is a regular attendee. He readily shared plans for his own burial. Having what he sees as an environmentally friendly afterlife plan is a comfort, he told the group. He, too, wants to change the notion that death is a taboo topic. "It makes me feel alive," he said later, of the death café discourse. "I feel really good when I leave there."

Acciavatti said green burials pair well with her desire to open up discussion about death. "We've become so cut off from death," she said. "It's been medicalized. It's been commercialized. It's been taken out of the home." In a traditional burial, an embalmed corpse is placed in a casket, which is then lowered five feet deep into a concrete vault and covered. The body decomposes, but the lack of contact with soil slows the process, wildlife biologist Anderson said. In the meantime, water interacts with the casket's metal, varnish and paint, which pose a risk of contaminating groundwater, he said.

Green burials are intended to bring the body into closer contact with the soil. The unembalmed corpse is buried with no casket or in an unadorned wooden coffin. There is no concrete vault. Decomposition of soft tissue typically takes place within two years, depending on soil and hydrology, though bones take longer, Anderson said. "With a green burial, you're trying to put the body as

close to active biological layers as you can without letting scavengers get at it," he said. Hundreds of green-burial sites around the country do that at three and a half feet, without a scourge of scavengers, he noted. Vermont requires that deceased livestock be buried under two feet of soil.

But convincing cemetery operators to change their policies will take time, said Calais cemetery commissioner Jennifer Whitman. She joined the movement after hearing Acciavatti speak and would like her town to allow natural burials. "This is a slow process," Whitman said. "This is going to be the next 10 years." Just collecting contact information for the many cemetery operators throughout the state was a challenge, she said. Now, Green Burial Vermont's goal is to help them work through logistical concerns.

People have many definitions of what constitutes a green burial, Whitman noted. Some want to be buried in the woods with no markers; others prefer a plain pine box in a shallow grave with a natural gravestone. Each cemetery's operators have to figure out what they can accommodate, Whitman said. Cemetery commissions would have to change long-standing policies, such as requirements for concrete vaults. Calais has such a rule, Whitman said. That policy exists for good reason — to keep graves and caskets from collapsing, Healy said. When workers dig graves and mow cemetery grass, they often use heavy machinery, he noted. Healy said that practice is one of the concerns he has about reserving part of a cemetery for green burials. He is not persuaded that wild animals won't dig up natural graves, though advocates insist the fear is unfounded. And he wonders what the protocol would be for transporting a body to a gravesite without a casket. "Will the public be able to handle seeing bodily fluids on shrouds?" he asked. Nevertheless, Healy has had requests for green burials, and the **Montpelier Cemetery Commission** is considering what to do. One option is to phase in changes. "I think our first step may be pine boxes without vaults," he said.

The **Burlington Cemetery Commission** is pondering the same questions. "I would like to do more research and see if there's a way to make it possible," said cochair Allison Curran. Burlington requires vaults and a five-foot grave depth at its two active cemeteries, Lakeview and Greenmount. Last week, Acciavatti asked the city commission for an exemption for a terminally ill client who wants a green burial. Commissioner Emma Swift expressed reservations about granting exemptions before setting a green burial policy, according to minutes of the meeting. The panel plans to consult the city's attorney.

Meetinghouse Hill Cemetery in West Brattleboro may come closest to offering a green-burial option. The graveyard has a separate section where vaults and embalming are not required, manager Andrea Mitchell said. Three bodies have been buried there. To the chagrin of green-burial advocates, however, the cemetery is unwilling to place bodies at depths of less than five feet. "The fella that digs our graves doesn't want it, and I don't want it. I think it's too shallow," Mitchell said. Asked why, she said, "I don't know, but I don't want to find out." Meetinghouse Hill charges \$1,000 for a green plot, more than the \$700 for a traditional one, because maintaining gravesites that are more prone to sinking is expected to be an additional challenge, Mitchell said.

If green burials gain traction in Vermont, the trend could give cemeteries a needed boost. Business is lagging, Healy conceded, as more Vermonters opt for cremation. Cemeteries are encouraging families to bury cremated remains, he said, but many choose to scatter or keep the ashes. According to the Vermont Department of Health, slightly more than two-thirds of Vermont's dead were cremated in 2014. Green burial advocates say cremation generates too much greenhouse gas.

Chris Palermo, owner of Perkins-Parker Funeral Home in Waterbury and president of the Vermont Funeral Directors Association, said that when he started in the business 40 years ago, about 15 percent of his customers chose cremation. Now, he said, 80 percent do. He's not yet had any customers ask for a green burial, but Palermo said he supports giving families the options they seek. Most importantly, he said, people should tell their families what they want, because, too often, they don't. "My sense is, people are becoming more comfortable with the discussion," he said.

Cheyette is at ease talking about such matters. His wife, Sage Blue, who died in 2004, was cremated. Cheyette spread her ashes on their property, he said. He hasn't shared his burial plan with his three children but said he met with a group of close friends to explain what he wants. "It's also posted on my refrigerator," he said, next to his advance directive and do-not-resuscitate orders. He explained *why* he wants his remains to nourish an oak tree. "I don't want my body to be wasted," he said.



Cemetery Commission Meeting Agenda

September 28, 2017, 4:30 PM

Lakeview Cemetery, 455 North Avenue

- I. Approval of Agenda**
- II. Approval of Minutes from July 13, 2017 Meeting**
- III. Old Business**
 - A. Storm water easement: map showing location available yet? (See 7.17.17 email from Nina Safavi, 7.25.17 email from Tag Taginski)
 - B. List of tipped stones righted at Greenmount May 20, 2017 available?
 - C. No Dogs Allowed and Open Sunrise to Sunset signs status: there are no signs in storage—what is process for getting them designed, ordered & installed?
 - D. Chapel repairs status (roof cornice, pointing, slate). Paul Bruhn, Preservation Trust of Vermont, noted matching grants available for assessment if needed. Todd Greenough may be investigating.
 - E. Chapel insurance needed question status
 - F. Chapel Handicap Access follow-up (See 7.17.17 email from Nina Safavi)
 - G. Has Section 6 has been tested for appropriate drainage (D’Alton emailed Shedd).
 - H. Green Burials—see The Meadows Green Burial Protocols booklet provided by Michelle Acciavatti, 7 Days article by Hollenbeck, mtg. w/ City Attorney, updates on changes in ordinances, mtg with Patrick Healy, Greenmount Cemetery, Montpelier. (see 7.26.17 Safavi email, 7.25.17 email from Tag Taginski)
- IV. New Business**
 - A. Preparation for addressing City Council in October (past Commission projects, current concerns, short write-up, date)
 - B. Setting Commission goals & timeline
 - C. Discuss Capital spending plan & FY19 budget proposals for Cemeteries (Martha Keenan was asked via email 8.14.17 & 9.07; see Jeff Shedd email 8.15.17)--Section VI survey & pinning, Fence, Chapel, other?
- V. Superintendent’s Items**
 - A. Safavi lowered Cemetery Event Policy impact fee in response to Thea Lewis complaint (see 8.15.17 Safavi email).
- VI. Commissioner’s Items**
 - A. 8.27.17 VOCA Barber Cemetery debrief
 - B. Perpetual Care Fund management mtg. w/ Jason Gow, new CEO and new Parks Dept. Head
- VII. Office Report**
 - A. FY17 Final Budget Performance Report
 - B. New fee schedule to go into effect Oct. 1; sent to Funeral Homes & Monument Dealers by 8.31.17, and to be posted on web Oct. 1.17.
- VIII. Public Comments**
- IX. Adjournment**



Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017, 4:30 pm

Commissioners Present: Rita Church, Allison Curran, Lainey Rappaport, Francis (Tag) Taginski

Staff Present: Annie D'Alton, Cemetery Office Assistant

Public Present: None

Attachments: 7.17.17 email from Nina Safavi re Chapel Handicap Access
Estimate for Section 6 survey from ParkArchitecture
The Meadows Burial Protocols re Green Burials
7.26.17 email from Nina Safavi re Green Burials
8.22.17 email from Allison Curran, re Green Burials
7.25 email from Tag Taginski re Green Burials, Storm Water concerns
7.19.17 Seven Days article on Green Burials
8.15.17 email from Jeff Shedd re Cemetery maintenance needs
8.15.17 email from Nina Safavi changing impact fee
Cemetery Budget Performance Report, FY17
Cemetery Fee Schedule, effective October 1, 2017
8.18.17 email from Preservation Burlington re October Tour

Mtg. was started at 4:32 by Co-Chair Allison Curran

I. Approval of Agenda

A. Tag Taginski moved to approve; Lainey Rappaport seconded; all approved.

II. Approval of Minutes from July 15, 2017 Meeting

A. Rappaport moved to approve; Rita Church seconded; all approved.

III. Old Business

- A. Cambrian Rise storm water easement proposal follow-up
1. Nina Safavi said Parks is still negotiating with Cambrian Rise developers about this proposed project. Taginski will look into this.
 2. Taginski spoke with Eric Farrell, Cambrian Rise developer, and Tom Little, chair of the Act 250 Committee involved with the Cambrian Rise development, to express concern about storm water runoff affecting Lakeview Cemetery. The Commissioners decided to write a letter to Farrell, introducing themselves—Taginski will do this.
- B. List of stones repaired at Greenmount May 20, 2017: Curran contacted Donna Waldron and found that no one had made a list. This will be done if & when future repair sessions are scheduled.



- C. Signage for no dogs, and Greenmount open sunrise to sunset. The Commissioners expressed dismay at the delay (years) in getting this done. Rappaport suggested asking Parks to get no dogs signs like those used at Cambrian Rise (she showed a photo). Curran will propose this to the new Parks Director, Cindi Wight.
- D. Chapel repairs: Annie D'Alton reported that a carpenter who had worked on the Chapel restoration was consulted, and Parks repaired the exterior cornice on the southeast corner. There is no need to look into getting a damage assessment done.
- E. Chapel insurance: is City not responsible for interior repairs, as indicated by Friends of Lakeview via Rita Church? D'Alton will ask Jason Gow at Clerk's Office (*Done 10.03.17*).
- F. Chapel Handicap Access Follow-up: Nina Safavi said she'd look into it. Curran will ask Wight if we can purchase one. D'Alton noted that this is not a legal problem, because the brochure indicates that the Chapel is not wheelchair-accessible.
- G. Status of Section 6:
 - 1. D'Alton reported that to his knowledge, Shedd said the ground has not been tested for drainage adequate for burials. Plan needs to be reviewed to be sure it's maintenance-friendly, and provides a variety of options.
 - 2. Lakeview Cemetery has no more standard-price single-grave lots on which a monument is allowed; the only standard-price lots where a monument is allowed are 2-grave lots in Section 5 and 8-grave lots in the New North Outline; the only single-grave lots on which a monument is allowed are in Oak Annex (higher price); other available lots have marker restrictions (18" height max., or flat only), and some are cremains only.
 - 3. Taginski viewed the area with D'Alton who gave him a copy of the layout, consulted with Shedd & Steve Bachand for design feedback, and asked a friend, Paul Simon of ParkArchitecture, to give an estimate for surveying & pinning: \$9,000. He also spoke with John Bossange, who suggested the Commission submit a proposal to Penny for Parks for the development of Section 6.
 - 4. Taginski suggested an ideas for altering the existing plan: Add an area for cremains like that which he'd seen in Florida (showed photo). These offer space-efficient lots with engraved bronze covers, which fulfill a prevalent desire for marking the exact location of cremains burial. Install a central, triangular bench in this cremains area.
- H. Green Burials: Curran visited Green Mount Cemetery in Montpelier and spoke with Patrick Healy—they are still working on development of protocols and space designation. To create a Green Burial area at Lakeview, the City's Cemetery Ordinance would need to be changed to include provisions for green burials, and a space in the cemetery chosen where heavy equipment would not be used.

IV. New Business

- A. Curran suggested delaying presentation to City Council until after Burlington Telecom issues resolved. She will write up a description of the presentation material.
- B. Setting Commission Goals & Timelines: Taginski noted that Curran's list from IV.A. could be used as a template. Taginski asked if CEDO's staff would be available to write grant proposals.



- C. Capital spending for FY18: D'Alton gave Taginski copy of assessment done by Martha Keenan. Current maintenance issues: Rappaport reported that the roads in Greenmount are so rutted she will not take her car there again. Taginski said they need regrading, not just filling. Also, railing at Lakeview Office needs to be repaired. D'Alton noted this had been reported, as well as the need for a wider opening (larger people had complained), but nothing has been done. Commission asked D'Alton to submit work orders via FacilityDude. *(Done 10.03.17)*

V. Superintendent's Items

- A. None submitted, Superintendent not present.
- B. Curran questioned Safavi's authority to change the impact fee without consulting the Commission. Taginski noted that Parks has authority to set fees charged in Parks. Also, the Commission had asked Jesse Bridges what the fee was that is charged in Parks, and he said \$5, but actually the fee is at the \$1 or \$2 level Safavi had chosen.

VI. Commissioner's Items

- A. Monument repair collaboration at Barber Cemetery: Curran proposed the Commission is too busy to take this on at present, all agreed.
- B. D'Alton proposed waiting until Cindi Wight gets established and new City Treasurer is hired, then request a meeting with them and Jason Gow to discuss importance of increasing Perpetual Care Fund. Taginski noted that changing the percentage split of lot sale revenue from 55% to Perpetual Care and 45% to the Cemetery budget to 5%/95% was very short-sighted. Commissioners agreed that a higher percentage should be contributed to the Perpetual Care fund, and this will be put into effect after FY18.

VII. Office Report

- A. D'Alton reviewed the FY17 Budget Performance Report.
- B. New Fee Schedule to go into effect October 1, 2017 has been posted on the Parks web site and sent to Funeral Homes & Monument Dealers.
- C. Preservation Burlington is collaborating with the Friends of Lakeview Cemetery for their October tour, so possibly they will not fall into the category of organizations that need to share any donations with the Cemetery.

VIII. Adjournment

- A. Next meeting: Thursday, November 16, 4:30 pm.
- B. At 6:13 Rappaport moved to adjourn, Church seconded, all in favor.