

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2020 11:19 AM
To: the oldchceme
Cc: Phillip Fleischmann; Linda Smith; Allen Buansi; Amy Ryan; Hongbin Gu; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Rachel Schaevitz; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Carolyn Worsley; Catherine Lazorko; Flo Miller; Laura Selmer; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Maurice Jones; Rae Buckley; Ralph Karpinos; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver
Subject: RE: Petition for Cemeteries Support

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Categories: Agenda Packet Process

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

If your email is related to a development application or a particular issue being addressed by the Council, your comments will be made part of the record. If applicable, we encourage you to attend any public meetings related to the items addressed in your email.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



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From: the oldchceme [mailto:oldchceme@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 11:04 AM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: Petition for Cemeteries Support

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report forward to reportspam@townofchapelhill.org

The Town of Chapel Hill has 4 cemeteries maintained by the town. The mayor led an effort to dissolve the Cemeteries Advisory Board last year, that had functioned for 10 years. The last Board meeting was cancelled by town staff so no finality was presented. A "cemetery champion" position was established but has been a disaster. Currently, there is only this mechanism to bring matters related to the cemeteries to the town and no mechanism exists to provide information from town except in response to a petition.

Numerous matters remained needed attention when the Board was dissolved and nothing visibly has occurred on these matters since the dissolution.

Among the matters needing attention are:

Repair to driveways in Old Cemetery. This was an action item for 4 years by town staff but has received no attention. Beyond the appearance needing attention, the root growth has become such a problem that a safety concern has been created for people using the driveways for access to cemetery plots.

Burial listings. The Old Cemetery has an accessible database for locating burial location on the town website. There is no such public information for Memorial or West Cemeteries burials. Town staff has been promising action on Memorial for over 2 years but without results.

Lack of burial plots There are currently no traditional burial plots available in the cemeteries since Memorial sold its last plots. There are Chapel Hill residents who wish to be buried within the town in a traditional plot. The Board petitioned the council over 4 years ago to address this problem and acquire and make available traditional burial plots, but the petition got no response or action.

Timely grounds cleanup Although generally undertaken, there are lapses. An associate of mine was buried in Old Cemetery and it took almost two months before the dried casket piece was finally removed from the grave.

Performance standards Grounds maintenance can be problematic. I incurred damages from the grounds crew on my plots that necessitated a substantial insurance payout and replacement, not repair, of damaged grave site structure. I have asked for standards and supervision to insure that this does not occur again.

Special funding control Over the years, a variety of special funding has occurred but when the Board requested a report on this, the result was a jumbled mess. Funding specific to the cemeteries should be spent as intended and accounts maintained to assure this.

Mechanism for direct input and response for cemetery matters With the dissolution of the Board, there currently exists no mechanism for direct public inquiry on cemetery matters and no mechanism to provide public information cemetery matters. Especially for family members of burials this problem exists.

I urge that the Council and town staff address these matters.

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Steve Moore, Chair
Friends of Old Chapel Hill Cemetery