

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2018, 3:00 PM

Peninsula Township Conference Room
13235 Center Road, Traverse City

The Peninsula Township Cemetery Committee composed of residents and staff met on Thursday, July 19, 2018, at 3 pm.

Present: Glysson, Kroupa, Westphal, Wilkinson

Members of the community present: Heller

Westphal presented a brief overview of the state of conditions surrounding the three cemeteries managed by the township: Bohemian, Ogdensburg, and Peninsula. Glysson and Kroupa added their historical perspectives to the overview. Wilkinson provided information on the various burial options available at the three cemeteries. Review of the last meeting minutes of the committee from previous administrations occurred which identified issues earlier.

This launched the group into a discussion of the various issues facing the cemeteries today. These needs included:

1. a better structured and more comprehensive record keeping ability;
2. more accurate burial location information both on-site and in the town hall;
3. clearer policies surrounding monuments and plant selection;
4. consideration of burial options in relation to placement in Peninsula cemetery;
5. the possibility of creating a maintenance endowment; and
6. consideration of moving the cemetery records and maps onto a digital platform.

Westphal offered to schedule several vendors with software capabilities to meet with the committee at the next meeting. Members of the committee thought that was a good idea. Several members took the Michigan Township Association handbook on cemeteries home with them for study.

It was agreed to meet again next month on Thursday, August 30, 2018, at 3:00-5:00 pm. Committee members were asked to select one or more of the needs listed above, and to do some research on them for purposes of opening a discussion of options relating to the needs. Westphal said she would contact several vendors who have been interested in demonstrating their digital cemetery software; these include BS&A, CemSites, and a third being used by Inland Twp which involves a Michigan-based company.

The meeting closed at 5:05 pm.

Joanne Westphal, Recording Secretary