

Meeting Type: Special Meeting  
Meeting Location: Pine Hill Cemetery – 131 Central Avenue, Dover, NH 03820  
Meeting Date: **Tuesday, October 22, 2013**  
Meeting Time: **7:00 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Belinda Labourdette – Chair, Bill Knowles, Bob Whiting, Grover Tasker – Secretary

**STAFF PRESENT:** Sharon Sirois – Facilities, Grounds & Cemetery Superintendent, Meghan Moisan – Administrative Coordinator

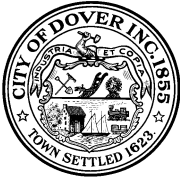
**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Otis Perry, Rob Marggraf (Alternate), Roland Hofemann (Alternate)

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Labourdette called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

**2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**A. Discuss Proposed Changes to City Code** – A special meeting was called to discuss whether to allow the Ordinance Codification and Verification Committee’s suggested changes to be codified and to make a decision prior to the public hearing on October 23, 2013. After some research, Knowles pointed to the codification and revision laws for the state of Washington (“codification” was not defined in New Hampshire). A revision to an ordinance is intended for clarification purposes, but does not give the right to change the meaning – making the proposed changes illegal. Knowles brought this to the attention of the City Attorney and was referred to Councilor Cheney, who chairs the committee. He relayed his concerns over the proposed changes being made without input from the Cemetery Board but was informed the board had been contacted. A handout was distributed to the members showing email correspondence between Cheney and former chair Otis Perry. Originated by Cheney on August 30, 2012, the email stated: “The Ordinance Committee is reviewing our ordinances and as such is considering removing the provisions in Chapter 74: no children allowed without adults and no bicycles allowed”. Cheney attached a copy of Chapter 74 and State RSA 635 to the email and added that “any violations to property, etc would be dealt with the provisions under the Statute and our Ordinances”. In Perry’s response on September 4, 2012, he said he would like to visit all of the prohibited visitors in the cemetery. He stated the roads and open spaces make the cemetery “a wonderful place for people to walk with their kids and pets”, noting that most people are respectful and stay on the roads and pathways. In addition to the suggestions Cheney suggested, Perry stated he would like to suggest “pets only on leashes”. Because of the strict rules, he did not think the police have “time or inclination to police the space” and it would “give folks some guidelines and could be enforced easily”. After their discussion, Cheney asked Knowles for confirmation that the Cemetery Board would like to leave Chapter 74 the way it is. She said she would provide the update for a reading on December 11<sup>th</sup> and also asked if the board could consider having motorcycles as a permitted vehicle.

Members were upset because the email only relayed the thoughts and opinions of one person and not a reflection of the Cemetery Board as a whole. They did not think that Perry (or any member) should be speaking on behalf of the board and agreed there should be further discussion regarding the handling of communications. Sirois pointed to a Dover ordinance (miscellaneous section 89-16) which states that dogs are prohibited from parks or schools, providing proper signs are displayed. Members also discussed Cheney’s suggestion to allow motorcycles in the cemetery and pointed to veterans



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services that include motorcycles. Most members agreed and stated they didn't have a problem with that being changed. Sirois said they could always grant permission, as they've done in the past, even if they remain prohibited. Knowles reminded members this could not be changed right now either, but it could be looked into and discussed again in the future. Labourdette the acknowledged the Ordinance Committee for their time and efforts, as it was not an easy task, and agreed the Cemetery Board should review and update the wording (to Chapter 74).

**Motion:** Knowles motioned that the City Council rescind the changes made to Chapter 74 and go back to the original form on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Second:** Tasker seconded the motion

**Vote:** U/A

Members will no longer have to attend the public hearing. Labourdette asked Knowles if he would email Councilor Cheney regarding the board's decision and copy the board members. He stated he would.

**3. NEW BUSINESS:** None

**4. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion:** Labourdette moved to adjourn at 7:45 PM

**Second:** Seconded by Whiting

**Vote:** U/A

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 7:00 PM.**

*Submitted by Meghan Moisan*