

Maplewood Cemetery Association

1Q 2017 Directors Meeting – New Business

The following topics were tabled at the 3/1/2017 meeting in order to provide time to review and consider the direction and position the Board will take. Please review these and determine what your recommendations will be for the 2nd Quarter meeting on June 7, 2017.

New Business:

- **Pet Burials – NYS Law Change**

Pet Burial Law (Chapter 330 of the Laws of 2016)

The New York State Association of Cemeteries (NYSAC) was successful in securing the passage of the New York State Pet Burial Law. Governor Cuomo signed the law on September 26, 2016. This new option for cemeteries went into effect immediately.

“We are pleased to be able to take this important step, which will allow us to better meet the emotional needs of the many families and individuals who have a strong bond with their pets.” (Forest Lawn Cemetery)

Decisions to be made: Should Maplewood Cemetery allow cremated domestic pet remains interments? Yes or No?

If Yes:

- When?
- Whose Pets, how many?
- Who Decides?
- How much do we charge?
- What Rules, Regulations, Requirements and Restrictions are needed? Rules & Regulations have to be updated and approved by NYS.
- Other decisions.....

If No:

- The ‘I know nothing....’ approach continues.
- The ‘Rules & Regulations’ have to be changed to state that we do not allow pet burials, that have to be approved by NYS.
- Lack of a possible revenue opportunity.
- Is an emotional need being overlooked?



Suggestions:

- **Should Maplewood Cemetery allow cremated *domestic pet* remains interments? Yes**
- **Conditions:** Allow ***only at the same time*** as an ‘owner’ interment? **Yes**
- **Conditions:** Allow for both ‘owner’ full-interments and cremation burials? **Yes**
- **Conditions:** The authorization for interment, entombment or inurnment of a cremated pet will be granted by the cemetery only with the consent of **grave owner, spouse, or authorized descendent**. The final decision is made by the Cemetery’s Superintendent or Director.
- **Conditions:** The pet(s) must have been **owned by the grave owner** and have proper paperwork (cremation certificate).
- **Limits:** Limit the number of pets per grave to **2**, only if space is available. **Note**, a separate pet inurnment will decrease any available space for future inurnments in that grave.

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- **Limits:** Limit to new grave purchases? **No**
- **Limit:** Memorialization of pet to the 'owner' memorial? **Yes** (No separate monument)

Pet Burial Pricing:

- **Pricing:** How much for pet inclusion in 'owner' casket? **\$100, \$250? Other?**
- **Pricing:** How much for pet outside of 'owner' casket? **\$250 or Same as human burial?**
- **Pricing:** How much for pet burial with 'owner' cremation burial? **\$250 or Same as human burial?**
- **Pricing:** How much for 'right to allow pet' in current or new grave? **\$ 0?**
- **Requirement:** A valid pet cremation certificate is required. **NYS Law**
- **Note:** The **entire pet interment charge** for the actual interment, entombment or inurnment, must be placed in the cemetery's permanent maintenance (**PM**) fund. **NYS Law**
- **Note:** The pet cremated remains must be in a separate container and not comingled with the human cremated remains. **NYS Law**

New Business: Rate Reviews

Rate Review: *Should any of these rates be increased?*

- **Interment (full)** – Grave Opening Fees: \$700 (Current)
- **Interment – Cremation** Grave Opening: \$500 (Current)
- **Grave Sale** - \$900 (Current) , \$500 Section J Cremation Graves (Current)
- **Sunday/Holiday additional fee:** \$500 (Current)
- **Winter Access additional fee:** \$50 (Current) (*charged Dec. 1 – April 1*)
- **Monument Foundations:** \$0.87 per sq. in (Current)

Note: \$1.00 per sq. in (*NYS Approved but not implemented yet*)

New: fees / services:

- All of the pet burial fees will have to be added to our price list and approved by NYS.
- Any changes in the prices of our current services also have to be approved by NYS.
- Any and all prices for services offered must be approved by NYS and on our price list.
 - No discounts or price variations are permitted by law.
 - No additional services, *not on price list*, that are charged for are permitted by law.

Last Maplewood Cemetery rate increase: 1/1/2012

Contractor price increases pending, expected to be minor increases.

New Business: Mobile Access to website

Access to a condensed presentation of the Maplewood Cemetery website is available to Directors and Officers only at: <http://maplewoodcemetery.org/mwadmin/>

No 'frames' are used and allows for faster data access on smartphones. This access is very handy when at the cemetery and people are looking for a location. The data and general section maps are the same as the main website. Clicking on the 'Maple tree'  at the top of the web page will send you to the main 'query' maps and additional reports. **Not intended for 'General Public' use.**