

Report to Council

Report Title:	Cemetery Monument Request		
Prepared By:	Cally Mann, Municipal Executive Coordinator		
Department:	Operations		
Date:	December 14, 2021		
Report Number:	PW2021-31	File Number:	C11PW, S09
Attachments:	Resident Letter		

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number PW2021-31 - Cemetery Monument Request, prepared by Cally Mann, Municipal Executive Coordinator, for information purposes and in doing so directs staff to follow the Cemetery By-law currently in place.

Report:

Background:

Wesley and Susan Leybourne, purchased four plots in the Starkvale Cemetery in 2017. Recently, they have requested a monument larger than what the Cemetery By-law permits. The proposed monument is more than twice as long and twice as thick at ten (10) feet long and two (2) feet wide, with the base twelve (12) feet long and three (3) feet wide.

The Cemetery by-law are the rules and regulations for within the cemetery boundaries and within the Cemetery By-law there are maximum dimensions for monuments. For a double plot, which is eight (8) feet wide, the maximum is 48 inches (4 feet) high, 56 inches (4.6 feet) long and 14 inches thick. In most cases when dealing with 4 consecutive plots there would either be 4 or 2 monuments permitted.

Due to the sheer size of the monument proposed, a crane would be required in order to install the monument. Luckily, the plot location is close enough to Bruce Road 1 and the Block D road access that a crane should be able to lift the monument into place without leaving a road.

Analysis:

Staff have requested further information from the Bereavement Authority of Ontario regarding the proposal and have received the following response:

The cemetery bylaws are the rules and regulations of the cemetery operator and are intended to ensure that all interment rights holders are provided with the same privileges and facilities so long as those allowances do not violate the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002*.

The cemetery operator may accommodate requests not specified in their bylaws so long as they would then provide similar allowances to another Interment Rights Holders. In other words, if you allow one variation of a monument, you may then have other requests that you will have to accommodate. It's a call your council, as the operator, must make and be prepared to deal with, in the future.

Should you decide to allow this request, you must amend your bylaws and have them approved to address these types of "one off" requests in the future. When you decide to accommodate special requests you should consider the long term obligations related to allowing that request. There is nothing to stop you from "asking" that the Interment Rights Holder provide a larger contribution / donation to the Care and Maintenance Fund.

As noted above, should Council wish to approve the oversized monument, the Cemetery by-law will need to be updated to accommodate to allow for requests of this nature that may come forward in the future.

The physical monument itself is the responsibility of the Interment Rights Holder of the plots, however the concrete foundation that the monument and base rest on, is the responsibility of the Municipality. Therefore, if there should the foundation need a repair or be replaced, the Municipality would be responsible for the costs associated with arranging to have the monument moved with a crane and then reinstalled once the concrete cures (48 hours). These costs would come from the Care and Maintenance Fund, of which the municipality is permitted to use the interest on the principle for specific costs. However, only limited number foundations can be repaired or replaced each year due to the cost.

We seek Council's direction to respond to the interment rights holder.

Sustainability Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

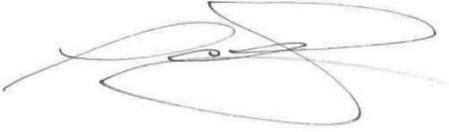
- Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? N/A

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective?
N/A

The current cost for oversized monuments is \$200 for anything over 4' and will increase to \$400 in 2022.

Reviewed By:

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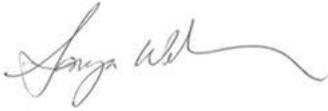
Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Cally Mann', with a stylized, overlapping loop structure.

Cally Mann, Municipal Executive Coordinator

Reviewed By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sonya Watson', with a stylized, overlapping loop structure.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer