

Update on Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens, Inc. (Whispering Maples) September 6, 2017

After the initial state award of more than \$100,000 to the Towns of Plattsburgh and Ellenburg for engineering and construction planning, a number of steps have been taken to prepare the Whispering Maples facilities for the restoration process. This has included an application for a grant of \$2 million dollars in the New York State Budget. This amount was allocated in the last state budget and is the largest known award for cemetery abandonment funds in the history of the state program.

Behind the scenes, a number of issues have been addressed to get us to the next steps. This has been a complicated process. Recently, the review of secondary bids, the securing of insurance, and bond reviews has continued. The towns have also applied for and received, state authorization of expenditures for the first stage of the work plan. A pre-construction meeting has also been held with the project engineers/architects, consultants and contractors. This week, authorizations to commence construction have been issued and work will now begin on both mausoleum facilities at the same time.

Additionally, we are pleased to report that at a recent court hearing on this issue, our Court Appointed Receiver, Ms. Connie Goedert, has been reappointed. She has been hard at work with organizational matters and reviewing of general project details along with our outside consultants. She continues to donate her services to the towns.

We are now at an important and visible step. Construction staging and activities will begin shortly. During this period, the crematory in Ellenburg will remain in operation. Entombments in the mausoleums will also continue as scheduled. However, please note that for periods during this construction, the mausoleums themselves will be closed to visitation as work is in progress.

Please also note that a number of families have not yet removed personal items from the crypt fronts outside and inside the mausoleums. Once construction begins, all personal items (including plants) will be removed from the mausoleums. It is important that families retrieve these items in advance. If you have any specific questions about what needs to be removed, please feel free to contact Ms. Connie Goedert at 518-594-7500.

Thank you and we look forward to the ongoing progress at these community mausoleums.

Michael S. Cashman
Supervisor

Town of Plattsburgh | 151 Banker Road | Plattsburgh, NY 12901
OFFICE 518.562.6813 | FAX 518.561.6801

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