

REPORT
UPON THE
LAYING OUT
OF
RIDGELAWN CEMETERY.

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REPORT UPON THE LAYING OUT OF RIDGE-LAWN CEMETERY.

In accord with the vote of the Town at its last annual meeting, the Board of Health has carefully considered the two plans which were exhibited for the laying out and improvement of the new cemetery lot recently purchased, upon the corner of Warren and Copeland streets.

These plans prepared, the one by Arthur F. Gray, C. E. of our Board of Park Commissioners, and the other by Clark E. Varney, C. E. of Boston, were explained to the meeting by their respective authors. Of these two plans the Board has chosen that by Mr. Gray as being the one by much the more artistic, and the better adapted to the needs of the Town.

According to the report of the Superintendent of Cemeteries, there is already a pressing call for further burial space to be furnished. The preparation of the new grounds should therefore begin at once that they may be brought into a serviceable condition as speedily as practicable. By the advice of Mr. Gray, whose report is appended, an appropriation of four thousand dollars would be sufficient to begin the work and carry it on in a proper manner during the current year.

BENNETT F. DAVENPORT, }
FREDERIC S. GRIFFIN, } *Board of Health.*
WALTER C. STONE. }

{ 53 STATE ST., BOSTON, MASS.,
 } March 31, 1899.

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF HEALTH,
 Watertown, Mass. :

GENTLEMEN,— Agreeable to your request, I have perfected a plan for the improvement of the lands recently purchased by your Board for the new cemetery. These lands located at the junction of Warren and Copeland streets, near the Waltham line, are sufficiently accessible to the town, yet are in a quiet rural neighborhood somewhat removed from any large, or prospectively large residential section, and are especially well adapted for cemetery purposes; the surface is rolling and the drainage excellent; the difference in elevation is some twenty-nine feet. Running nearly parallel with Warren street, and about 450 feet distant, is a ridge of nearly uniform elevation which extends nearly the entire length of the lot. The plan here suggested, is to be carried out on the lawn system, and the presence of the well defined ridge extending through it, at once suggested the combining of these two characteristics in the name for the grounds, and "Ridgelawn" was chosen as a particularly expressive and fitting one. This, however, you must consider only as a tentative name which can give place to one more appropriate, if desired or deemed more proper by your Board.

The lot surface is covered with a generous layer of good soil, over a stratum of rather coarse gravel, more or less porous, and affording a good site for burial purposes.

The levels of the lot are given by contour lines at intervals of (2) two feet vertically, these levels are referred to the Boston datum plane, the zero of which, is mean low water mark in Boston harbor, the highest point of lot is (132.9) one hundred and thirty-two and nine-tenths feet above this plane, the lowest about (103.9) one hundred and three and nine-tenths feet above.

No trees of any value are found in the area taken, and we must depend entirely upon the plantings to supply this want, and to beautify these lands.

The plan suggested contemplates the use of the lawn system throughout, with park-like effects; this treatment is not only the most pleasing, but the most effective form of modern cemetery design.

APPROACH AND ENTRANCE.

Naturally approached through Warren street via Lexington street from the town, on account of the easier grades, the placing of the entrance at the corner of the grounds seems the most logical. At this point should be placed in the future a well-designed rustic chapel and office building, which should also contain a waiting room, toilets, etc., with heating and tool room in basement. Around this entrance a sufficient amount of land should be retained for decorative treatment and ornamental planting, the plan suggests such a reservation.

An exit should be provided on extension of Copeland street near the south-east corner of the plat; this would probably seldom be used as an entrance, however, owing to the sharp grade of the ascent from Main street through Copeland street.

DRIVES.

The main entrance drive is twenty feet in width to the point of divergence after entering the grounds, all other drives are laid out fifteen feet in width, with gracefully curving lines, so studied as to make the lots accessible and the grades and drainage of their surface effective. These drives have borders reserved three feet in width on either side. In these reserved spaces the catch basins of the drainage system will be placed, also such trees and flowering

plants as the management may direct, looking always to the highest development of the grounds.

LOT DIVISIONS.

The lots are all easy of access, and all open either upon the avenues or upon the paths three or five feet in width, passing through the sections so that all may be reached without crossing other lots.

All lots are numbered, the sections are lettered and the paths named, the initial letter of each path indicating the section letter. The lots are of various sizes to meet the varying wants of purchasers. Each section enclosed between the bordering avenues should be kept as nearly as possible with its naturally rolling surface, and paths, lots and all, kept as a well-clipped lawn. Markers of cast-iron similar to those made by J. P. Williams & Co., 237 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, should be used for corner boundaries, all pressed down level with the grass, so as to admit of a lawn mower being run over them. No curbs, whatever, should be allowed in the cemetery, and it would be well to have the marking stones confined to a few simple designs of low markers, of approved form and design, as has recently been deemed advisable in Brookline; where such a plan has been adopted and the designs of monuments also are submitted to the cemetery trustees for approval before erection.

All plantings should be controlled in like manner, the use of ivy or low trailing vines should be permitted, but the indiscriminate planting of large shrubs or flowering plants should not be permitted upon lots. The use of cut flowers should be encouraged, as far as possible, preserving the lawn surface intact, or as an unbroken carpet of green.

The decorative plantings of the grounds should be confined to such portions as the advisory landscape architect, or gardeners shall designate.

The lots have been so divided that they may be used by all classes of purchasers. They are as follows:—

1018 single graves,	3' x 10'	Area 30 sq. feet each.
268 two-grave lots,	7½' x 10'	" 75 " "
1135 three-grave "	10' x 10'	" 100 " "
397 five-grave "	10' x 15'	" 150 " "
16 six-grave "	10' x 20'	" 200 " "

599 lots of various areas of larger size bordering the principal avenues, or a total of 3433 numbered lots.

They have been so distributed that the parties purchasing may have the greatest possible choice of location, and to meet as far as possible their varying needs and requirements.

It will be noted that the number of 10' x 10' lots is very large; this arrangement has been deemed of the greatest advantage, as they may be sold either singly or in groups of two, three, four, or more as may be required in special cases.

The large lots along the avenues are specially desirable and are well distributed throughout the grounds. These will offer individual prominent lots for family uses.

DRAINAGE SYSTEM.

A drainage system has been suggested, the back portions behind the main ridge to drain by short pipe lines, into dry intercepting drains in the margins. The portion sloping toward Warren street to be gathered by a series of catch basins into drains, passed through a settling basin or sand catcher, and then allowed to empty into the ornamental pond which will answer as a receptacle for the growth of aquatic plants, as well as a water supply for watering the grounds if required. A small electrically operated pump might be used to distribute the water through the grounds, delivering at convenient points. This method of utilizing the water could be kept in the vogue till the water supply and sewer system of the town were extended. An overflow pipe could extend to the street drain to provide a storm overflow, and control the surface level of the pond.

RECEIVING TOMB.

The best available location for a receiving tomb has been defined upon the plan, a tomb built upon this site could be made largely above the grade, could be covered by an adequate earth covering; be well drained and ventilated, and have no objectionable features. Its accessibility at all seasons of the year would also be a most desirable feature, as vehicles could approach it easily and by only a short detour drive around the section in which the tomb is located, returning immediately to the entrance point. This feature of its location will be of great advantage in winter when heavy snows cover the ground. The site chosen is in Section "H," immediately facing the main gateway.

CHAPEL AND OFFICES.

At the entrance, a section of the boundary should be walled in and a small building erected of tasty design in rustic stone work. The building should contain a waiting-room for the public comfort, an office for the superintendent of burials, and a small chapel in which services could be held when desired. In its basement could be arranged rooms for heating apparatus, tools, and for the storage of such materials as might require winter protection.

This building and the walls at entrance can be largely built from the stone contained in the walls, trimmed and relieved by a small amount of cut stone.

A temporary wooden structure of small cost could be provided for office and waiting-room for a few years till the income from the sale of lots should furnish sufficient funds and warrant the erection of the more permanent structure.

PLANTING.

Reservations for plantings are to be made in the immediate vicinities of the pond, the chapel, and the entrance, and a border strip has been also reserved for a screen planting of large trees next to the adjoining lots, also for hedges upon the street boundaries.

Plantings of an ornamental character have also been arranged for at other points in the grounds where they will best serve to heighten the ornamental effect.

A general estimate of the approximate cost of development is herewith given :—

Grading of driveways and paths,	\$2,600 00
“ around pond, entrances, and elliptic lot,	700 00
Drainage system,	800 00
Planting, as shown,	400 00
Temporary office and waiting-room,	1,000 00
Receiving tomb, with sixty crypts,	2,500 00
Lot markers, etc.,	500 00
	<hr/>
Total,	\$8,500 00
Engineering services for laying out, 10 per cent. of cost,	850 00
	<hr/>
Total cost approximately,	<u>\$9,350 00</u>

I think it would be well to recommend the town to appropriate the sum of \$4,000 for the beginning of the work and carrying of it on during the current year.

Respectfully submitted,

ARTHUR F. GRAY.

WATERTOWN, May 13, 1899.

DR. B. F. DAVENPORT, Chairman Board of Health :

Dear Sir,—In answer to your inquiries of the 9th, concerning the Common Street Cemetery, I have to report as follows:—

It is a fact that a great number of the lots have been occupied before. In regard to single graves, there is but little space left, enough for something like twenty-five or thirty. There are also about twenty-seven family lots left, which are mostly on the lower range next the fence on the back part, and of no great choice, as they are situated about alike. It would be advisable to start on the new cemetery

as soon as possible, as it will be soon needed. There are already several parties that are holding on for an opening up of the new ground.

Yours respectfully,

GEO. H. GREGG,

Superintendent of Cemeteries.

BOSTON, MASS., June 5, 1899.

DR. BENNETT F. DAVENPORT, Chairman Board of Health :

Dear Sir,—I have been carefully over the Common Street Cemetery grounds with Mr. Gregg, with a view to see just what land is available for present uses. I find that while there are some over twenty lots available, yet there are very few that are in any way desirable. Probably these lots would not accommodate over one hundred and twenty-five bodies if buried full, which you could hardly expect, even if all were immediately sold, as many vacancies would remain for years to come. Mr. Gregg thinks it would be wiser to retain these few remaining lots, as they are not very choice, for single burials. This would seem to me to be a very wise thing to do, as there will be need of many single burials before the portions of the new grounds, which will contain these lots, can be made available. This presents a strong reason why early provision for the better class of burial lots should be made in the new grounds, otherwise you will soon be called upon to furnish single burial plots, if the few remaining lots at Common street are taken up for private families. Several have already applied to Mr. Gregg for choice lots, and there are probably others who would also take lots if they were available in the new cemetery.

It seems to me, with the present condition of Common Street Cemetery, that your Board cannot act any too soon.

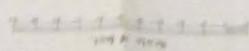
Respectfully submitted,

ARTHUR F. GRAY.

BRIDGELOWN CEMETERY

WARREN & COPLAND STS.
WATERBURY, MASS.

PLAN OF



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