

Town of Merton
Joint Public Hearing with the Town of Merton Plan Commission & Waukesha County
To Consider the Conditional Use Request of St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish for the Expansion of the
Cemetery and Associated Land Altering Activity.
May 3rd, 2023

Present: Chairman Klink, Commissioners Griffin, Jensen, Morris, Siepmann, Queoff & Good, Attorney Murn, Planner Haroldson, Jacob Heermans of Waukesha County Parks & Land Use, and Deputy Clerk Claas
Also Present: Terry Horst, Tom Hansinger, Deacon Allen Olson, Steve Nachreiner, Dave Bechtel, Rita Lund, Carol Merkel, Wendy Renz, Mike Steinbauer, and Lori & Mark Paprocki

This Public Hearing was Called to Order by Chairman Klink at 5:31 p.m.

Heermans read the public hearing notice.

Horst stated Steve Nachreiner and his company helped get the plan together for the cemetery. He explained sheet C100 is the existing contours at 1' intervals and shows shoreland zoning jurisdiction. The aerial was shot this past winter and shows where existing grave sites are. Sheet C200 is proposed work all within the 3.88-acre parcel and shows the access road they would like to build, the burial fields, the location for a future columbarium, future landscaping, and the grading limits. Sheet C300 shows grading after contours also at 1' intervals. Horst said what they would like to do on about 60% of the 3.88 parcel is to skim off the top to do leveling so they have better sites for burial. They will use that dirt to build roadway embankments so the driveway is relatively flat joining the two areas together. They are also planning to have a memorial for the unborn which would be open to all denominations free for grieving parents. They also have space for a columbarium. About 50% of Catholics do get cremated and they do expect that to increase through time. Sheet C400 shows cut and fill in a different method. They plan to skim off dirt in some areas and place it in other areas. They are looking at about 2,400 cubic yards of topsoil being stripped and stored within the grading limits and then grading about 2,800 cubic yards of material to the embankment. No grading materials plan to be moved on or off the site. They are possibly getting some millings from the Hwy 83 project for base of the access road. Sheet C500 shows erosion control details which consists of silt fence along the whole eastern perimeter of the grading limits. They are also looking at other erosion control measures while they build the swale. There will also be erosion control measures when the slope is 4:1.

Haroldson said she met with the applicant and the only thing she would suggest they go to Land Resources about getting a stormwater permit.

Heermans stated based on the scale of the grading, it would trigger stormwater and erosion control permits from the Land Resources Division. He said cemeteries are a conditional use under County's ordinance and because they are encroaching on Waukesha County's jurisdiction, that's triggering the conditional use. The scope of the land altering activities also requires a conditional use. Heermans stated that cemeteries are allowed in almost all zoning districts, so it does comply with zoning. They are providing screening along the lot lines. The Land Resources Division has taken a look at the plans preliminarily and they don't see any issues.

Klink opened the public hearing to comments and concerns.

Lori Paprocki – N76W30896 County Rd Vv – said she lives right next door to the cemetery and is for the project for two reasons. She is a member of the parish and likes the idea that for her eternity she likes to see who's living in her condo. Her only concern is that there would be adequate screening. There's one condo that borders the cemetery right now. Not everyone wants to look out their window and see gravestones.

Klink asked if they are going to rough in the road and then in 2025 put the road in. Horst said that's their plan, depending on funding.

Good questioned if the screening would go in right away. Horst replied as budget allows and it's their last priority as far as cost goes. They want to develop the site first. Griffin asked if there are any plans to screen on the condo side. Horst said no and the reason why is because most of the slopes are being undisturbed and there is a lot of brush and trees in that area.

Horst said the memorial for the unborn has an area set aside for very small plots, and because they do want to have a memorial with benches perhaps and paving stones, they do want to have it as a quiet, reflective site, so they do plan on having some trees or shrubbery along that reflective area.

Haroldson asked after the conditional use is prepared and approved, how soon do they want to be working on this. Horst said their original schedule was to have about two weeks at the end of May and two weeks into June. The actual work, if weather conditions allow, could be done in three weeks.

Haroldson clarified that they were going to use some recycled materials. Horst said yes, it saves their parish about \$25,000.00 if they can get the base through the millings of Hwy 83. Their timing is pretty much dependent on that. They have to have the site pretty well graded before they can do the cut for the driveway. That's the key to the timeline because they don't want to have to move the material twice.

Morris asked if the roadways in the cemetery are strong enough to support transporting quad. Horst said the existing drive is in good shape and they are just going to saw cut that area where the columbaria is now and match into that. They want to take out about 100' of the existing drive because they want to raise that area.

Morris commended them on their plans saying they were very good and very thorough. Horst said they could thank Steve Nachreiner for that.

Klink closed the hearing at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly R Claas
Deputy Clerk

