



CENTRAL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION OF BROOKFIELD

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Dear Dale:

Thank you for your time last week. Tom and I appreciated the informative tour of Evergreen's operations and your follow-up on the new State of Connecticut Office of Legislative Research Report on Cemeteries. (OLR 2017-R-0089) <https://cga.ct.gov/2017/rpt/pdf/2017-R-0089.pdf>.

We are both looking forward to the upcoming Connecticut Cemetery Association (CCA) meeting on June 15, at the Baci Grill in Cromwell. That occasion motivates this proposal.

Background

The Central Cemetery Board of Trustees recently approved a project and budget to upgrade our record keeping system. While we have made considerable improvements over the last 15 years, we recognize the benefit of using newer technologies. Research on how to proceed led to productive discussions with operators of other cemeteries and members of the engineering community that specializes in mapping and geographical information systems (GIS). From those conversations emerged an idea that seems to align with this year's topic of succession planning.

Proposal

The idea is to consider a long-term, CCA-led initiative to modernize record keeping for those cemeteries seeking assistance like Central Cemetery. Rather than having each of us embark on technology projects that we are not entirely comfortable with, we instead *collaborate as an association with another association* whose members are knowledgeable engineers and technologists. Doing so might make the industry attractive to young people eager to apply the latest technologies to industries that can benefit from it. The aim would be to have all cemeteries in CT locatable on one map, and to have links to individual cemetery layouts and records.

One of the large municipal cemeteries in Hartford gave a presentation on what might be a prototype. They reported to the GIS association on a current project they are doing in collaboration with a university whose interns are getting real-world experience with technology.

My thought is to invite some of those people to our June 15 meeting to start a conversation. Dale, let me know if this is appealing and worth considering. You can reach me at (203) 466-6313.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey G. Nolan
Trustee