

Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2019

Present: Andy Tolman, Grace Keene, Brenda Lake, Karen Peterson, Marianne Perry, Deb Doten

Staff: Ben Rodriguez, Sexton

March 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes: The minutes were approved.

Sexton's Report:

- An extensive report was presented.
- The fence at Dudley Fence was discussed. Information on aluminum fencing was presented. Pros and cons were discussed. There is municipal grade aluminum fencing available. Other options are cast iron, metal posts with chains and granite posts with chains. Aluminum is strong and has a nice appearance. It would be easy to maintain should there be snow damage. This year, the cedar snow fencing did help to grave markers from drifts and snow banks from snow plows. No matter what fence is chosen, the cedar fence will be placed each year. Please see the Sexton's Report for more detail.
- Record Keeping System: More and more grave sites are being documented on FindAGrave.com. Note the high percentages in the Sexton's report.
- The results of the Kents Hill Cemetery RFP were discussed. There were three bidders with each having slightly different recommendations on what was necessary for tree work. All met the basic requirements of the RFP. While there was one bidder with municipal experience that was lower than other two bidders, the amount of work and the type of work were uniquely different.
- With spring here, the Sexton has not been able to work on educational programs.
- Flags are here.
- The Readfield Cemeteries will be open soon.

Fencing For The Dudley Plains Cemetery:

The plan is to have the fence installed before the end of this fiscal year (ending 6/30).

The recommendation is to explore the costs for a municipal grade aluminum fence, granite posts with chains and metal posts with chains.

Kents Hill Cemetery Tree RFP:

The Tree RFP can be reviewed at <https://www.readfieldmaine.org/cemeterysexton/bids/kents-hill-cemetery-rfp-2019>

. The comparison chart is in the Sexton's Report. The usual process for RFP's is for the appointed committee and the Sexton to make a recommendation to the Select Board. While the scope of work does not meet the fiscal requirements outlined in the the TOR Procurement Policy requiring an RFP, the political history surrounding tree work prompts the Town Manager to utilize the RFP process for the work needed.

Three bidders met the all the requirements of the RFP. Each met the needs of removal of hazardous limbs. Each made recommendations for future work. There was extensive discussion over the \$1300.00 differential of one bidder with the other two. One bidder clearly defined the cabling of trees which would preserve the esthetic and historical aspects of the cemetery and its trees. While Stevenson Solutions was the highest bidder, the Cemetery Committee recommends this be awarded the contract because of the clarity in the description of the tree removal and maintenance, and the detail to which trees would be pruned, cabled, and/or removed. Stevenson also proposed significantly more restorative and tree conservation work than the other two responders.

East Readfield Cemetery:

The lilacs located on the corner of the cemetery (Plains Rd. & Rt 17) were damaged, most likely, by a vehicle that was parked where it is prohibited. Thanks to Marianne Perry for helping to save and determine the extent of the damage.

Whittier Cemetery:

When time permits, there was a reminder to have the sign placed facing the Beaver Dam Rd.

Meeting Time:

There was discussion about having the meetings in the morning. There is one member would not be present on Wednesdays if the meetings were in the morning.

Next Meeting:

May 15, 2019 at 1:00 in Giles Hall.

Opening Statement and Summary-

With the end of winter, coming with it the inevitable melting of snow and ever present rain, I have been quite busy running around the town. Addressing various spring projects has directed my attention away from making extensive progress on projects related to our cemeteries. Progress has been made on various fronts though.

I have worked more on the lesson plan for educational events and have continued a little bit of research on funeral practices by reading and taking notes on Jessica Mitford's *The American Way of Death: Revisited* and *Grave Matters: A Journey Through the Modern Funeral Industry to a Natural way of Burial* by Mark Harris. I am excited to try and integrate some of this information into future educational events. I unfortunately have been unable to take a closer look at the long range plan and make revisions; however, with help from some possible discussion today I can receive some points to focus on.

The most exciting piece of news is that the Tree RFP's are in and an excel document has been made to compare the proposals. The proposals ended up being fairly close to one another and are near our budget. I am looking forward to looking through these proposals and coming to a decision on tree work for this fiscal year. Anna and Eric have been helpful throughout this whole process, which I am very appreciative of.

Contents:

- Dudley Fence: Information/ Resources on Aluminum Fences
 - Update on record keeping
 - Kents Hill Cemetery Tree RFP
 - Plan of Action
-

-Dudley Fence: Information/ Resources on Aluminum Fences-

Great Fence.com:

https://www.greatfence.com/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwhPfkBRD0ARIsAAcYycHPope91GQmkH6xq2j5pOMEXIt0TGQXZviP0d3f2R0_AR5PlfGE_qsaAjgmEALw_wcB

"THE BENEFITS OF PREMIUM ALUMINUM PRODUCTS

Aluminum is lightweight and doesn't rust or become brittle when exposed to extreme low or high temperatures. More durable than steel, vinyl fence or wrought iron, we believe that it's the ideal element for weathering resistance. As such, we have chosen this to provide longevity and the highest quality of products to our clients.

By installing our aluminum fences and gates, you don't have to worry about spending on replacements and repairs repeatedly. A single DIY fence and gate installation is all you need for your home or commercial property. Even if you install our products at areas with high exposure to moisture, like the poolside, we use a specialized powder coating technology to keep them looking fresh and new. You'll never repaint again."

Fence Hub: <https://fencehub.com/fence-basics/materials/ornamental-fencing>

"Aluminum or Steel (a.k.a. Ornamental Iron) fences are styled to look like classic old wrought iron fences. Hence the odd name.

Use aluminum fencing in a place where you want security but don't want to lose the view, like in your front yard or around your pool. The style and look of this fence is unique. Expect to pay more than for wood and vinyl. Aluminum fencing is usually professionally installed.

Aluminum fencing pros:

- Long lasting
- Super-low maintenance. except for the occasional cleaning
- Rust free

Cons:

- If you are expecting aluminum to look like wrought iron, aluminum just doesn't look as substantial and expensive the real McCoy
- Aluminum fences are not as strong as wood fences. They can bend or dent. If this happens, the whole fence panel needs to be replaced
- Pro install recommended (this is a little odd because other have said this is not necessary

Aluminum Fences Direct: <https://aluminumfencesdirect.net/aluminum-fencing-benefits>

- Durable= Immune to rust and resistant to corrosion making it able to last in variety of environments
- Cost-effective= Cheaper than wrought iron and lifetime cost is lower because you have to spend little on maintaining it
- Aluminum is a lightweight but strong material
- Easy to repair= Damaged section is usually the only part that needs to be replaced
- Customizable
- Eco-Friendly= Usually aluminum used in fences is from recycled cans and the fence can also be recycled itself if sections ever need to be replaced. Both these aspects lower the impact to the environment.

-Cost-

Great Fence.com:

Cheapest- Residential= 5/8"

5' foot wide x 48" inches high with 3 horizontal rails

Black Satin (flat)= also comes in 8 different colors

Standard- level fence runs or slight slopes

No rings/ circles

> \$64.99 per panel

Cheapest- Commercial= 3/4"

6' foot wide x 48' inches high with 3 horizontal rails

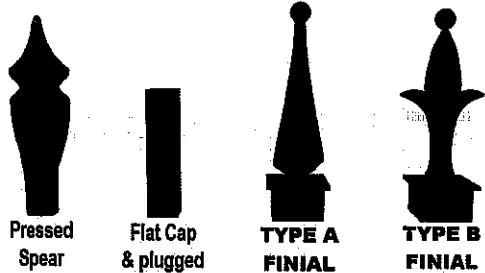
Black Satin (flat)= also comes in 8 different colors

Standard- level fence runs or slight slopes

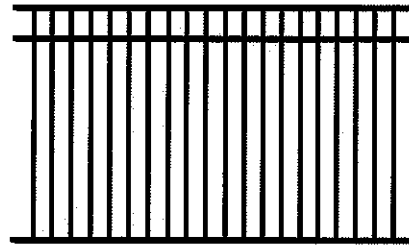
No rings/ circles

> \$98.80 per panel

Possible designs for the tops of the fence
(extra)



Finials are made of a heavy, aluminum metal and powder coated.



Heavy Duty Providence Black Aluminum
Decorative Fence

5ft high x 8ft wide 9 (actual panel size
varies slightly)

Weight-31.75

Racks 1 in per foot

Fence Top Style- Pressed Point

Posts sold separately

Transferrable Lifetime Warranty

> \$139.61 per panel

Lowes:

Freedom-

Heavy Duty New Haven Black Aluminum
Decorative Metal Fence

4ft high x 6ft wide

Weight- 30.225 abs

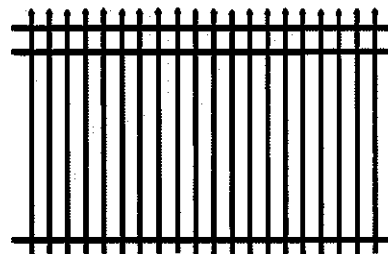
Racks 1 in per foot

Fence top style- Flat

Posts sold separately

Transferrable Limited Lifetime Warranty

> \$135.30 per panel



Standard Concord Black Aluminum
Decorative Fence

4ft high x 6ft wide

Weight- 12.975 lbs

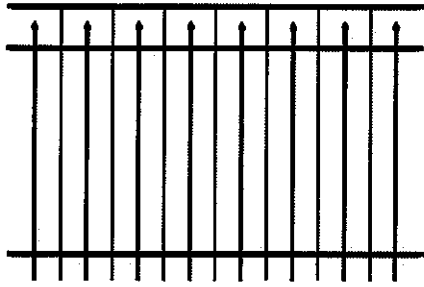
Racks 38in over 6ft

Fence top style- Flat

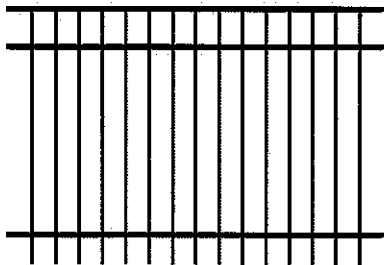
Posts sold separately

Transferrable Limited Lifetime

> \$77.71 per panel



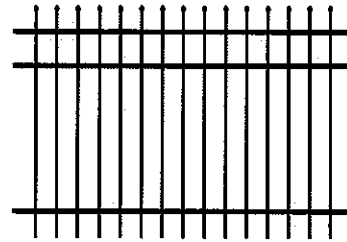
Ironcraft-
 Bershire Black Powder-Coated Aluminum
 Decorative Metal Fence Panel
 4ft high x 6ft wide
 Weight- 11.15 lbs
 Rack up to 22°
 Fence top style-Flat
 Posts sold separately
 Limited Lifetime Warranty
 > \$62.89 per panel



Orleans Black Powder- Coated Aluminum
 Decorative Metal Fence Panel
 4ft high x 6ft wide
 Weight- 11.15 lbs
Update on Record Keeping

I certainly should have thought about this sooner (live and learn), but Find a Grave can be a great starting point for compiling records relating to our cemeteries.

Black
 Rack up to 22°
 Fence top style- Pressed point
 Limited Lifetime Warranty
 > \$59.94



All Around Fence Company

<https://www.allaroundfencecompany.com/pdfs/colonialAluminum.pdf>

- No pricing found, however, this document from Master Halco on their Colonial Aluminum fencing provides great illustration of various designs.

<https://www.allaroundfencecompany.com/pdfs/Stephens%20Alumium%20Brochure.pdf>

- Also no pricing found. This brochure does provide good examples of various designs and options for needs (residential, commercial, municipal, and industrial)

Memorials Uploaded-

East Readfield: 575 added (58% photographed)

Readfield Corner: 1,662 added (92% photographed)

Kents Hill Cemetery: 225 added (72% photographed)

Dudley Plains Cemetery: 128 added (89% photographed)

Whittier Cemetery: 11 added (73% photographed)

Huntoon Cemetery: 17 added (94% photographed)

Case cemetery: 117 added (97% photographed)

Capitalizing on resources such as this one can allow us to better understand what resources need to be purchased for record keeping in the future and areas where money can be saved. I am looking forward to building off of the memorials uploaded on Find a Grave and adding more photos as the better weather continues.

Plan of Action

A decision on a model of aluminum fence (or another option if one is suggested) should be done by the middle of May at the latest (sooner the better to ensure completion by the end of the fiscal year). A company can be contracted to do the work, or Anna has suggested the possibility of completing the work ourselves. Aluminum fencing is supposedly fairly simple to install.

I will be presenting the bid proposals to the Select Board on Monday, April 22nd. Any recommendations and thoughts would be greatly appreciated. I will be discussing the proposals more with Anna and Eric as well.

By the next meeting I am determined to finally finish the educational event lesson plan and have it ready for distribution. I don't believe many schools will be able to fit this educational opportunity into their schedules due to timing, but I still want to make them aware of the opportunities and suggest early fall as an option. I still plan on offering 2-3 community opportunities for cemetery surveying and cleaning this summer. I will continue to brainstorm some dates and begin figuring out best ways to reach out and inform the public.