

**Draft after committee members' additions/corrections. Thanks.**

## **Cemetery Committee minutes for January 20, 2021.**

**Present:** Andrews Tolman, chair; Grace Keene; Brenda Lake; Marianne Perry; Pam Osborn; Ben Rodriguez, Sexton.

**Absent:** Warren Norris, Sandra Rourke. Deb Doten has submitted her resignation.

The meeting started at 1:13 p.m. and was conducted via Zoom due to distancing requirements of the Coronavirus pandemic, now in its 45th week. Today we celebrate the inauguration of Joe Biden, President; and Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States.

**Minutes for the previous meeting** held on December 16, 2020 were passed without dissent. Moved to approve by Grace Keene and seconded by Brenda Lake.

It was noted that Deb Doten has moved to Hallowell and after years of valuable service as one of our anchors, will no longer sit on this committee. She will be greatly missed. Andrews will write Deb a note of our support and thanks.

**Sexton's Report by Ben Rodriguez:** The RFP for tree work at Readfield Corner, East Readfield, Huntoon, and Kents Hill cemeteries will soon be completed.

Ben has been considering record-keeping and digital mapping software options and finds that the Town's ARC GIS may work for our needs, too. We might be required to pay a consultant to add the app for our particular use but this may still be a most efficient solution.

Ben added his photos and a slide show by Brenda Lake to the Cemetery Department link from the T of R web page.

Ben hopes that Joe Ferrannini will again travel here to repair and instruct in gravestone repair, perhaps in late August.

Several bronze veteran flag markers plus two plastic ones as emergency stand-ins have been purchased. This depletes the budget in that line for this year.

**Old Business:** Budget: Bruce Burgoine, Chair of the Select Board, requests that each department budget very carefully for next year. Andrews will present our committee's updated budget which is relatively conservative, even a little smaller than was last year's. We will submit it as is and try to reduce it if requested to.

**New Business:** Marianne has noticed overgrown shrubbery that needs attention. Brenda volunteered to assist. Grace reports that the East Readfield berms look fine - no winter deer damage. She notes our handsome Christmas wreaths at entrances need more secure fastening. Several have been found blown down. Ben will look into the task for next year. We all agree that wreaths should stay on display until the end of February unless they are looking worn before then.

Discussed were the several vacancies on the Board, one immediate and three coming in June. Deb's term expires this June, as will Warren's, Grace's, and Andrews's. Our three-year terms should be staggered but don't seem to be.

Discussion ensued about changing our meeting day and time to ones more convenient for all. We've decided upon the third Monday of the month at 10:30 a.m. However, to avoid Presidents' Day, our February meeting will be held the fourth Monday, February 22, at 10:30 a.m. Ben will inform Deb Nichols, Town Clerk, of the changes for addition to the Town calendars. The March meeting will occur March 15, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. Ben will invite us by email into these Zoom meetings.

The meeting ended at 1:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Riley Osborn

Secretary pro tem