

**Cemetery Comm. minutes for meeting February 22, 2021. Draft after vetting by chair, sexton, and committee. Changes made 3-4-2021**

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

**Absent:** Warren Norris, Sandra Rourke, Marianne Perry, new member - Karen Peterson.

The meeting started at 10:35 a.m. and was conducted via Zoom due to distancing requirements of the Coronavirus pandemic, now in its 49th week. A quorum was not present so no business beyond reports was transacted.

**Minutes for the previous meeting:** Without a quorum, we have not yet accepted January's minutes.

**Sexton's Report by Ben Rodriguez:** Ben continues to meet with several arborists regarding RFPs for tree work at Readfield's Huntoon cemetery. So far respondents are: Taylor Stevenson, Andrew Poulin, and Josh Fournier. Ben hopes to interest several more. RFPs are due March 1. The contract will be presented for approval, or not, by the Standing Committee during its meeting on March 15, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Ben and Andy met with CemSites to discuss software for cemetery mapping and record keeping. They offer "a nice package" but which is quite costly especially right now during this pandemic and its economic impact. The core bundle for raw software is \$5,000 plus a \$1,200 per year annual license.

We are hoping for a summer cemetery intern partially paid through a Municipal Interns Grant through the Margaret Chase Smith Foundation, a project of the University of Maine. Town Manager, Eric Dyer, is on board. If approved by the Selectboard and engaged, the student intern will do field GPS locating and will work in addition to the regular summer help hired by the T of R .

Kennebec Land Trust met with Ben to discuss best practices for our Huntoon tree removal plans. Huntoon abuts KLT land and both organizations want to protect the area from invasive species taking over once trees are removed, letting sun in and encouraging growth.

**New Business:** We happily welcome Karen Peterson back onto the committee.

We are charged with finding another enthusiastic, potential, cemetery committee member.

In the absence of a quorum no other business took place.

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Our next meeting will be by Zoom on March 15, 2021 ( the third Monday), at 10:30 a.m. Ben will invite us.