

Cemetery Committee minutes for meeting March 15,2021.

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

Absent: Warren Norris; Sandra Rourke.

The meeting started at 10:33 a.m. and was conducted via Zoom. We have just reached the one-year-mark of this Coronavirus pandemic.

Minutes for the two previous meetings: Approval of the January and February 2021 meetings were approved and accepted without dissent. Moved to approve by Brenda Lake, seconded by Grace Keene.

Sexton's Report by Ben Rodriguez: Ben contacted eight arborists seeking RFPs for tree work at Huntoon Cemetery. He met with five and two responded with bids. The two submissions were from Taylor Stevenson of Stevenson Solutions requesting \$3,500 and from Spicer Tree Specialists asking \$12,150. A motion was made by Grace, seconded by Marianne Perry and we unanimously voted to recommend Stevenson Solutions to the Select Board at this evening's meeting.

Ben has applied to the Maine Municipal Association's 2021 Summer Municipal Intern Grant Award. If the Town of Readfield receives the \$2,000 award it would partially help cover the cost for a summer intern. We should hear back from the Maine Municipal Association by April 1st, 2021.

Ben is currently working on vital record data (and comparing them to burial cards), currently in an Excel database, and transferring them to a new comprehensive Excel document.

New Business: Grace was contacted by Town Finance Officer Theresa Shaw who asked if we should transfer some of the \$14,000 currently in a "carry-over account" to a "capital reserve account." After some discussion Brenda moved and Marianne seconded a motion which unanimously passed, and Andrews Tolman is authorized to transfer \$10,000 to the Capital Reserve Fund.

Grace expressed hopes we may soon spend \$1,500 earmarked for tombstone repair by Collette.

Discussion ensued about the need to replace committee members whose terms will end in June: Warren Norris, Andrews, Grace, and Marianne. (The latter three each plan to resubscribe for one more three-year term, we don't know Warren's plan but we all urge him to return.) Karen Peterson's term runs until June 2023.

We briefly discussed the possibility of conducting several tours of our cemeteries, perhaps led by Dale Potter Clark. This might be of interest to folks interested in local history, the design and maintenance of tombstones, our park-like cemeteries and gardens, birding, enjoying a pleasant walk, and may even attract some to join our committee. More anon.

Our next regular meeting is slated for April 19, which is Patriots' Day and a holiday for Maine and Massachusetts. We will move our next meeting to the following week and gather via Zoom on Monday, April 26, at 10:30 a.m. Ben will invite us.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Riley Osborn
Secretary pro tem