

Cemetery Committee minutes of meeting June 21, 2021

Present: Andrews Tolman - Chair, Karen Peterson, Grace Keene, Warren Norris, Pam Riley Osborn, Ben Rodriguez - sexton.

Absent: Brenda Lake, Marianne Perry, Sandra Rourke.

Also in attendance: Tom Molokie - soon to join our committee, and Megan Lemieux, summer intern for 40-hours a week for 12-weeks starting June 1. Megan is a Unity College rising senior, a major in forestry and biology, and will work on cemetery software projects for us this summer.

The meeting, called to order at 10:36 a.m., was held on lawn chairs at Kents Hill Cemetery.

We warmly welcome Tom Molokie to our committee. Tom will be installed at tonight's Select Board meeting. And we welcome Warren back from his hiatus.

Minutes for the previous meeting: The motion, made by Grace, seconded by Warren, to approve the May 17, 2021 minutes with changes, unanimously passed.

Sexton's Report: Brady Cumber has been hired as seasonal staff. We hope we can catch-up on mowing our seven cemeteries in addition to handling the myriad of other outside tasks required. Brady is paid Maine's minimum wage, \$13.00/hour.

Dr. Wang, an UMPI geologist, met via Zoom to aid us in using our new ARC GIS software.

We have acquired a "Spectra Mobile Mapper" paid from the Software Line.

Ben reports that Taylor Stevenson's essential tree work in East Readfield Cemetery went somewhat over budget. This will be handled by paying the overage from the Contract Services line. At Readfield Corner a large branch fell during the winter threatening an iron fence. When removed it left a dangerous four foot deep hole which Ben has marked with warning cones until it may be filled and seeded.

Bronze markers for Veterans' graves have been ordered and received. The cost was \$462.05. We display markers for veterans from WWI, WWII, the War of 1812, and the Revolutionary War. Also of note, in Readfield Corner Cemetery are the tomb of a recipient of the Bronze Star, and another of a guard of the Tomb of The Unknown.

After consulting with tree-knowledgeable people and a representative of the McPhedran family, we have acquired for Whittier Cemetery a healthy, tall "Fall Fiesta Sugar Maple". Ben is fostering it behind Giles Hall until it may be planted.

Les Priest is the new lead trustee for the "Emma Hunt Fifield Memorial Trust and Fund". We look forward to working with Les in supporting projects that enhance our cemeteries which also serve as peaceful parks in our community.

Ben suggested a use for trust funds might be to provide a kiosk for each cemetery, not unlike those provided on our trails, holding maps, information about notable people interred there, local history, and other pertinent information. Grace suggests a pressing need is to use trust funds to repair broken and fallen stones when no present relatives can be found. In particular, several Whittier Cemetery stones need attention. Joe Ferrannini of Grave Stone Matters may help with this when he works with us this August.

Grace later reminded us that the Fifield funds may be used only for projects in the East Readfield Cemetery.

Other business: Our new fiscal year begins July 1. This year we have done a good job of spending our budget in a timely manner and completing some big projects.

Grace and Brenda sanded and primed with Rustoleum the many posts fronting the Dudley Plain Cemetery; next step is to paint them forest green. Volunteer, Howard Lake, cleaned the brushes. Thank you all.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 19, 2021, 10:30 a.m., at the Readfield Corner Cemetery. Please bring a chair.

This meeting place has been changed to East Readfield Cemetery, 10:30 a.m.

The meeting formally adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Riley Osborn

An informal discussion then ensued regarding our hopes for efficient and effective use of employee time and Town equipment in maintaining cemetery grounds. Our cemeteries serve as a welcome to our community. They are calming park-like spaces as folks travel past and into them. We hope they will be welcoming, peaceful, and well cared for indicating our respect for our forebears, our visitors, and for ourselves.

This discussion ended at 11:48.