

Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2022

Present: Brenda Lake, Marianne Perry, Warren Norris, Ben Rodriguez, Tom Molokie, Karen Peterson, Grace Keene

Excused absence: Andy Tolman, Pam Osborn, Lee Livingston

Meeting Minutes for Prior Meeting: Minutes for May were reviewed. Tom made a motion to accept the minutes, Brenda seconded. There was no discussion and minutes were unanimously approved. Approved minutes will be submitted to Town Clerk.

Juneteenth celebrated as a national holiday today.

2022 Cemetery Committee budget passed by town of Readfield election.

Sexton's Report by Ben Rodriguez

Ben reported that FY 21 money must be spent by the following week ending June 30th. He will focus on specific needs to address remaining balances that have already been recommended by the Committee and Readfield Town management. An example is plants purchased for the reflecting garden including daylilies, spirea and Russian Sage. Others are the completion of some tree work by Stevenson and Collette also repaired some gravestones this past week. Some minor maintenance tools were purchased as well. A new zero turn has been approved for purchase.

No well will be drilled near the ball field.

Asked by Grace about the bare ground at the Case Cemetery Ben informed the Committee that grubs have eaten the sod roots. Karen mentioned that prior years saw the same infestation there. Once the grubs arise animals like skunks, possums and porcupines dig for them further destroying the sod. Committee recommended Ben seek advice of lawncare management company. Karen made a motion to ask Town investigate the Case sod issue and come up with a rectification program, 2nd by Tom. Some discussion occurred centering around ideas for reseeding or hiring a professional for review. Recommendation for inquiry was passed unanimously. [Since this meeting the grass appears to have rebounded.]

Ben noted that quite a few lots for cremains were sold. Tom asked about point of contact for selling lots. Ben said that lot sales go through him.

Ben has asked Stevenson to focus on saving trees this coming year.

It has been asked of Ben to verify that Mark Railo, recently deceased, is a veteran and add him to the town veteran gravesite registry.

Old Business

Pam pointed out that Tom, Lee and she did put out flags at Readfield Corner. While doing so they noted quite a bit of activity and maintenance occurring and gave copious complements on how well groomed it looked. Kudos to sexton and his crew. Marianne noted that there were lots of flowers placed by visitors.

New Business

Grace also noted that the upper part of East Readfield Cemetery hadn't been mowed prior to Memorial Day and recommended that no other cemetery be started until the last be completed.

A complaint about the mowing at Readfield Corner was received and addressed by Ben and his crew.

While our meeting was held at Kents Hill Cemetery Warren asked about the Karsten Stone which was still fallen. The history of the stone was reviewed. This is an issue where the family hasn't come forward to remount the stone despite attempts to contact the family. Tom knows the Karsten property management company and volunteered to make a contact and hopefully engender a resolution.

Ben is searching for partners to help on identifying veterans and compiling information on our known veterans.

Grace asked Committee members if any important business needed to be addressed in July. There are no outstanding issues, as such she recommended a hiatus until August skipping the July meeting.

Next meeting is August 15th, 2022 @ Whittier Cemetery.

Tom moved to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Marianne, discussion waived by chair. Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:37 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Warren Norris
Cemetery Committee

Addenda

1. August meeting location has been changed to Readfield Corner Cemetery (Church Road) at the request of the sexton.
2. Marianne Perry has asked that an item be added to the August meeting agenda. She would like to discuss adding fencing for the Reflecting Garden to protect plantings from further deer damage.