

Readfield Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2023

Present: Andy Tolman (Chair), Grace Keene, Brenda Lake, Lee Livingston, Tom Molokie, Pam Osborn, Marianne Perry, Karen Peterson and Ben Rodriguez.

Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 10:50 am.

Sexton's Report: Ben Rodriguez

Rain has affected everything, especially the mowing.

Case Cemetery:

Ben and Matt repaired the sign holder and put the sign back up. Of great concern is the grub problem here and terrible pH values. Ben recently walked around the cemetery with John Bennett from Turf Solutions, LLC. He recommended removing the surface stones first and then applying some pesticide for the grub problem. A small excavator would be used to lay some loam and then hydroseed. This project would be done in the fall. \$3,000 in the budget might be used for this lawn project at Case; Ben predicts the total cost will be more than \$5,000. Grace suggested that no flowers be planted at Case Cemetery until next year after the grub work has been completed.

Readfield Corner Cemetery:

Marianne and Ben picked out flowering plants to replace plantings which were not doing well. Total cost was \$332.53. Ben might put out some potted plants at Readfield Corner and other cemeteries as well. There is \$442 left in the grounds budget line. A Brute trash barrel would be useful. Ben will call John Cushing to see if he has been paid for his work here and at Kents Hill Cemetery. Total cost was \$1600.

Cemetery Policies:

Marianne and Pam led a discussion on a policy for cemetery decorations and ornaments. The Committee recognized their hard work on this. Readfield residents want to have a park-like appearance and a tranquil atmosphere. Ben will read over existing rules and regulations to weed out redundancies, etc. He also suggested we conduct a public forum on the topic.

Ben is getting more comfortable broaching rule issues with grieving families. He is a caretaker, and aware that it is often a difficult time for the families.

Ben will let us know when John Bennett will be at Case.

Joe Ferraro will be in town the second week of July.

Next meeting will be at the Town Office on July 17th at 10:30 am.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lake, Secretary Pro Tem