

March 18, 2024

Readfield Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes

In Attendance; Andy Tolman, Grace Keene, Marianne Perry, Tom Molokie, Ben Rodriguez, Lee Livingston

At 10:30 AM Committee members met briefly in East Readfield Cemetery to discuss the removal of, rather than the pruning of, two large Maple trees along the front of the cemetery. Ben explained his reasons for recommending removal with discussion of pruning versus removal and associated costs.

The committee reconvened at the Town Office at 11:00 AM.

Discussion was continued over the plans to remove rather than prune the trees in East Readfield Cemetery. Tom made a motion to remove the trees and discussed staying within the RFP for Fiscal Year 2024 Cemetery tree work. Marianne seconded the motion. Approved. Ben discussed his method of obtaining proposals to insure clarity for the Selectboard. Future relationships with contractors were mentioned and Marianne requested that the Selectboard be made aware of future needs. Grace suggested that the Selectboard members be invited to tour the cemeteries. Ben agreed this was a good idea, after the Spring clean-up. Grace mentioned some old stones leaning against the trees. Ben indicated he would investigate the stones as to ownership and proper location.

Ben recommended amending the minutes from February to indicate removal rather than pruning of East Readfield Cemetery trees.

Motion to accept the amended minutes from February 12, 2024 made by Grace Keene, seconded by Tom Molokie. Approved

Sexton's Report - Ben said he had contacted John Cushing and Brandon Ellis to obtain the costs of removing excess fill from East Readfield and Readfield Corner cemeteries. Tom inquired if the fill might be appropriate for top dressing graves. Grace mentioned that some fill will be needed for leveling in East Readfield Cemetery. Ben said Spring cleanups would commence as weather permitted, ensuring all work would be completed prior to Memorial Day. Ben said he has sufficient flags on hand to decorate all the Veterans graves, Tom and Lee volunteered to help put out the flags. Ben informed the Committee that a Powerbroom attachment, for existing equipment, had been purchased. The Powerbroom will expedite cleaning up of the grass areas in the cemeteries. Ben said he had contacted the monument company, Grave Stone Matters, to confirm future work. Some planned repairs will be performed on June 3rd and 4th, to stay within the Fiscal Year 2024 funds. Further repairs will be conducted on July 8th through the 12th, within the new Fiscal Year funds. Ben indicated that grounds work funds from the current Fiscal Year would be used to purchase mulch and plantings.

By-Laws – It was noted that the revisions to the By-Laws need to be finalized as to the exact wording prior to voting and/or enacting. There was some discussion as to lot (grave) prices. Tom said he will contact some area cemeteries to ascertain their lot prices.

Budget – no discussion

Next meeting April 22nd, 2024 at the Town Office.

Tom made a motion to adjourn at 11:59 AM. Seconded by Marianne.

Respectfully submitted, Lee Livingston