

Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes February 19th, 2020

Present: Andy Tolman, Grace Keene, Pam Osborn, Marianne Perry, Warren Norris, Ben Rodriguez, Deb Doten

Meeting Minutes for January 15th, 2020: Motion made to accept minutes with proposed changes and seconded, discussion pursuant and amended minutes were approved unanimously.

Sexton's Report by Ben Rodriguez

Ben discussed the downed tree at the Whittier Cemetery. He has obtained agreement from Karen McPhedran to have the tree taken down. The cost will be \$1600 that can be afforded out of the Whittier perpetual care trust. Taylor Stevenson is almost completed with tree work at Case Cemetery. He noted that one of the other trees marked for removal has a raccoon living in it. The tree will be watched until the raccoon leaves before removal occurs. Ben will also ask Greg Goucher to provide price for Whittier work.

Ben also mentioned Anna is reviewing training options for repairing cemetery stones (up-righting, repair breaks with proper materials, re-setting on pins). There is a vendor who can provide one-on-one training or small group training. The expense is \$700 per day (10 to 12 hours/day). The course is 4 or 5 days. This would absorb the current stonework budget. Other options besides this training include:

1. MOCA training
2. Collette's training (working side-by-side)
3. Sell equipment not currently in use

Discussion followed: Committee views that training will be important and that the repairs are within the charter of the committee and the sexton's job description. Committee will review use of 2019 budget funds that remain for stone repair work. Ben to use 2019 budget for Case repairs, Collette's will continue stone repair there. Other cemetery stone repair work will come from new 2020 budget.

Old Business

Software project activity has slowed for the season, however, Andy from Pontem (software vendor) agrees the Greenland NH municipality matches most closely with Readfield for activity as measured by number of interments. Ben will forward Andy's comments to committee.

New Business

Bicentennial activities were discussed. Marianne performed her review of best fit trees for the planting at Case this spring. Discussion included agreement that Sugar Maples were a best fit for the climate and the style of Maine cemeteries. Marianne will price from Longfellow's and Struck's.

Ben will look into the removal of the ruined picket fence at Case.

Motion made to close meeting (M/S/V). Adjourned 2:40 pm.

Next scheduled full committee meeting is scheduled for March 18th^h, 2020

[Committee at the suggestion of the Town of Readfield due to Covid-19 has canceled our March meeting. April's meeting will be conducted via Zoom Video Conferencing.]

Respectfully submitted,
Warren Norris
Cemetery Committee