

Cemetery Committee Meeting  
September 18, 2023

Present: Andy Tolman, Pam Osborn, Lee Livingston, Marianne Perry, Grace Keene, Brenda Lake, Tom Molokie, Karen Peterson, Sexton Ben Rodriguez

Approval of August 2023 Minutes. Unanimous

Fairgrounds Committee: Marianne Perry has resigned from the working group. She is unsure whether there is much overlap with the Cemetery Committee. No members present expressed interest in volunteering and taking Marianne's place.

Motion made and seconded: Move that Chair Andy Tolman will write to the Fairgrounds Committee and state there are no other voluntary participants. However, before any final decisions that may impact the cemeteries are made, the Cemetery Committee wants to be notified. Unanimous

Sexton's Report: Ben reported that recent storm caused no damage in Kent's Hill or Readfield Corner Cemetery.

Collette Monuments has been repairing and uprighting the Karsten monument in Kent's Hill Cemetery. The family contracted with Collette and it appears a pre-formed slab is being used as a base.

The recent rains have made it difficult to keep the cemeteries and other town properties mowed.

Veteran flags and markers have not been delivered yet. Ben will follow up.

Tree work throughout the cemeteries will be delayed. An RFP has not been prepared yet. The work is anticipated to take place after winter. There was some discussion on the location of various trees that need work.

Ben will meet with some National Honor Society students from Kent's Hill School and faculty members to see if they might have interest in helping with certain cemetery projects. The meeting will be on October 2. If the students can work during the winter, that will work out well for Ben's schedule. Ben hopes to have some Maranacook students participate at some point, too.

Ben noted that having two zero-turn mowers has made grounds upkeep that much more efficient.

Ben asked whether committee members could survey certain cemeteries to check integrity of the flags.

Volunteers should let Ben know where they'll survey and he will provide them with flags.

Ben and Matt Seems have re-tapped some flag holder rods so they fit sturdily again. This practice should result in fewer rod purchases in the future.

A few internments have taken place. Several lot purchases have also occurred.

Rules Update: Ben will compile the current Draft Rule ideas and send them to Committee members.

Marianne Perry and Pam Osborn will meet with Ben on October 2 regarding Ornamental and Decoration guidelines. Pam asked for Ben send the Draft Rule two weeks prior to their meeting for ample review time.

There was some discussion on ornaments and foundations. The October 2023 Cemetery Committee meeting will focus more on Rules for monument foundations.

There was consensus that any updated Rules will need to include a definition of cemetery maintenance. The definition will have language dealing with possible removal and storage of upright stones that have fallen over after families refuse to repair them. While such circumstances are infrequent, it will be important to delineate responsibilities.

Case Cemetery Ground Cover: Ben spoke with Maine Turf again, who advised him their schedule requires waiting until the fall of 2024. It was suggested that Ben make a testing area with lime added to the ground to determine whether that would help the soil and grass.

Next meeting will be October 16, 2023 at the Town Office.

Adjourn at 11:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Peterson