

**Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**May 17, 2017**

**Present:** Grace Keene, Marianne Perry, Brenda Lake, Andy Tolman, Deb Doten, Pam Osborn, Sandra Rourke, Karen Peterson

**Absent:** John Moran

**Staff Present:** Eric Dyer, Anna Carll

**Minutes of 4/19/2017:** Only comments were that Grace Keene's and Anna Carll's names were misspelled.

Motion made and approved to accept the Minutes as Corrected.

**Readfield Corner Cemetery Memorial Garden Sub-Committee Report:** More soil, mulch and landscaping materials are needed before planting can begin. The importance of nutritious soil was emphasized. The sub-committee went to Lowe's and got some basic prices. Plants considered so far include low-growing evergreens, such as junipers, plus perennial grasses and various other perennials. The overall presentation would be circular in pattern. Perhaps concrete edging could be added to set the garden off from the rest of the property.

**East Readfield Berms:** It was mentioned they need weeding and mulch. Possible vendors for mulch were discussed.

**Cemetery Mowing:** Two members brought forward concerns about the length of grass at all cemeteries. This is of particular concern as Memorial Day is fast approaching and there is a burial scheduled this coming weekend at East Readfield. Town staff stated that the rainy, muddy spring made it difficult to access the cemeteries for mowing and road repair. Additionally, other Town activities that needed to be finished have been prioritized. It was stated that Memorial Day weekend is the one weekend a year that all cemeteries have high visitation from patrons that care for their families' plots. It is an expectation that mowing is completed prior to Memorial Day weekend which traditionally begins on that Friday.

**Memorial Day Preparations:** Flags have been purchased and they will be *placed by* May 26, 2017. Grace Keene will take care of planting the various Trust Fund flowers.

**Governor Hunton Trust Fund:** This Trust Fund has been transferred from the State of Maine to the Town of Readfield. The fund has almost \$4,000 and its intent is for perpetual care of that Lot only.

**Dudley Plains Cemetery Fence:** The fence has sustained significant damage over the past few years from snowplowing, tree limbs falling on it, etc. The first set of graves is within the Town's right of way so it's important that the Plow Contractors are made aware of that. The Town Manager asked the Committee to let him know where "whips" would need to be placed to alert plow drivers. Motion made and approved to remove the fence and discuss other options.

**MOCA Stone Cleaning/Repair Workshop:** The Sexton reported that she submitted to and has received a grant from the Maine Old Cemetery Association (MOCA) for a Leaning and Cleaning Workshop to be held in the Readfield Corner Cemetery. The class will be on June 17, 2017 from 9:00 AM until 3:30 PM. Cost is \$20, some of which will pay for materials. Up to 20 people can attend.

**Cemetery Rules Revision:** Copies of the October 19, 2015 Rules were distributed. There was discussion on whether to change certain sections to an Ordinance instead of an Article. Either way requires Town Meeting approval to ratify. Rules can be written as policy which means that the Committee can develop Rules requiring a Select Board vote to change. The change from cemetery rules to an ordinance from an article would be consistent with all other advisory committees. Andy Tolman will research language that ties Ordinances to Rules.

Next Meeting will be on June 28, 2017 at 1 pm. The focus will be on Rules and Ordinances. Please bring the current Rules to the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:45 PM.