

## **Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes February 20, 2019**

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

Minutes approved with minor amendments.

### **Sexton's Report:**

The Sexton's Report will be sent to members electronically ahead of the meeting. All agreed that these written reports are complete and very helpful.

The Sexton can be reached as follows:

Ben Rodriguez

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During the winter months the Sexton has been looking at ways to educate the public about cemeteries as places for reflection and as historically significant places. There is an extensive review of resources that was included in the Sexton's written report. Committee members are encouraged to view these resources. The hope is that a lesson plan will be created that could be used for local schools and UMF so as to motivate students to participate in volunteer projects such as stone cleaning and repair. This research has also been training for the Sexton in that he "sees cemeteries as an invaluable yet often overlooked, cultural and historical resource".

The Town's web site will continue to be updated. All pertinent cemetery information will be included. When complete, the Sexton will send the link to the Committee for review.

### **Budget Update:**

The Budget Committee has accepted the FY 2020 budget as proposed by the Cemetery Committee.

The 2019 Budget is on track for being spent. The tree work RFP has not been issued yet. This needs to be completed soon. There was a concern about the equipment in the cemeteries during mud season. While the tree work is just trimming this year, it is important that this work be completed as soon as it is dry enough to get into cemeteries.

### **Plan Review**

Future space needs. There was a review of the plots left for sale and how quickly they are being sold. The Committee asked for a check on the numbers, but agreed that there is no immediate need for additional land for traditional interments. There is a growing trend in green burials. The new plan will include the Sexton's research on the green burial trend as well as an exploration of potential partners. Regarding cremains, it has been suggested that unused space too small for traditional burials be used exclusively for cremains.

Also in the plan will be cemetery maintenance and stone repair as suggested by the Sexton.

In addition to revising the plan, this is also a time for celebrating the progress made on the original plan.

The Committee will finalize this updated plan at the next meeting.

**Other Business:**

Board Chairs Meeting with the Select Board was held. The Select Board would like to do tours of the cemeteries.

The Cemetery Committee has one open position. Volunteers for the position are welcome to apply with the Town Clerk.

**Next Meeting:**

March 20 at 1:00