

Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2015
Approved: October 19, 2015

Members Present: Grace Keene, John Moran, Deb Doten, Andy Tolman, Lydia Adelson, Brenda Lake, Marianne Perry, Pam Osborn

Members Absent: Sandra Rourke

Staff Present: Karen Peterson

The meeting started at 9:00 at the Town Office

It was noted that some members could not open the attachment that came in the minutes. This file was sent as a dropbox attachment. Deb Doten will remember to convert all files to PDF documents in the future.

A warm welcome was given to Andy Tolman.

The July 14, 2015 Meeting Minutes were approved. Motion made by John Moran, and seconded by Brenda Lake. 8 voted to approve and 1 to abstain.

The 2014-15 Cemetery Budget was underspent by \$3017.16. This money was not spent because there were no mowers hired until July. Our Sexton stated that she did the mowing on weekends during the month of June and did not want to put in for overtime pay. All on the committee thank Karen for her volunteer contribution.

Sexton Report:

Two berms have been planted as part of the Living Fence at the East Readfield Cemetery. The landscaper used was D.R. Struck. The cost was \$2720. Bill Rourke donated 30 yards of loam for this project. All agreed to take turns watering the new plants.

There have been two burials since July 13, 2015.

Mowing has been going well with newly hired seasonal employee. Marianne Perry stated that the cemeteries look great. All agreed.

The purchase of a new mower has been approved (by who) Karen is looking at John Deere or Walker mowers. John Moran suggested talking with Kramer's of Sidney.

Karen Peterson is buying D/2 stone cleaner which is biological product used to clean cemetery stones. This is the product used at all Veteran's Cemeteries.

Liaison Policy

The Select Board is asking for committee feedback on the Liaison Policy. While the Committee appreciates the essential two way communication between the Select Board and Advisory

Committees, it was a consensus that a Liaison Policy is not necessary. The following is the outcome of the Committee's round table discussion:

- Is there a section of the Select Board roles and responsibility where communication with advisory committees could be defined?
- All meetings are public and all are welcome, including Select Board Members.
- There are many ways to have effective communication besides meeting attendance. Select Board members can request committee attendance at their meetings, they can check in with the chairs for updates, and they can write their directives and questions at anytime. Why is a policy necessary?
- Presentation of this Liaison Policy in the insinuated that there was not open communication between Advisory Committees and the Select Board. Members of this Committee feel that there has always been effective communication between committees and the Select Board.
- The Select Board should be involved bigger, more global issues such as improving the appearance of Readfield Depot or the dam restoration.
- It is important to hear the discussion and thoughts from all Select Board members.
- The way this Liaison Policy is worded ties the Select Board's hands by requiring an unmanageable number of meetings and adds an additional burden to an already busy role.
- All on the committee support the positive intent of the Liaison Policy. Respectful communication is essential to the best interest of the town's cemeteries, but is a policy needed?
- All agree that the opportunity to provide constructive feedback to the Select Board on the Liaison Policy is appreciated.
- Grace will draft an email response as requested by the Select Board.

Stone Walls:

There will no further discussion on how to proceed with the stone wall repairs at Readfield Corner and Case cemeteries until there is a Town Manager (hired) on board.

Fall Projects:

Finish painting the fence at Dudley Plains will take place on 9/16 at 10:00 am.

Stone cleaning at Torsey Cemetery on 10/6 at 9:00.

Pruning at the East Readfield Cemetery on 9/21 at 2:00.

Next meeting:

October 19th at 9:00 am.

