

*Cemetery Committee Meeting  
December 7, 2015  
Approved January 4, 2016*

**Members Present:** Grace Keene, John Moran, Brenda Lake Pam Osborn, Deb Doten, Lydia Adelson

**Members Excused:** Andy Tolman, Sandra Rourke, Marianne Perry

**Staff:** Karen Peterson, Eric Dyer

**Select Board Liaison:**

**Members of the Public:** Lenny Reay, Fran Zambella

The meeting came to order at 9:00 am.

The November 13, 2015 meeting minutes were approved. Motion made by Lydia Adelson, second by Brenda Lake. Approved 5-0.

The objective of this meeting is to make recommendations to the Select Board for cemeteries in the Capital Improvement Budget.

**Budget for 2016**

Preliminary budget recommendations need to be given to the Town Manager by 12/31/2015. John Moran, Grace Keene, Deb Doten and Karen Peterson will bring recommendations to the full committee at the next Cemetery Committee Meeting. Draft recommendations from this committee are acceptable to present by 12/31 as long as it clearly states pending Cemetery Committee approval.

**Capitol Improvement:**

**Maple Trees:** There are a total of 33 aging maple trees that will need to be addressed. There are at least 3 trees that need immediate attention. The cost of tree removal for one of these trees is approximately \$1500. A plan needs to be implemented for one maple that has a lot of decay in the Whittier Cemetery. Action steps are (a) have the Town Forester identify trees that may be saved and associated costs if any, (b) develop a timeline and estimated cost of for trees that need to be removed, (c) recommend that the issue of replacing trees be a discussion held for all trees in Readfield and (d) encourage donations of trees and plants rather than a purchase.

**Stone Wall Repair at Readfield Corner Cemetery:** Grace Keene gave an overview of the Helen Watts PE report on the Church Rd. run off causing the problems with the stone wall. The Road Committee has not discussed this matter yet. No recommendations can be made until the Road Committee reviews the report and runoff into the swail in front of the stone wall.

**Stone Repair:** Planning for cemetery stone repair funding will need to include a maintenance budget as well as identifying all stones that need repair. Deb Doten will forward the stones needing repair to the Town Manager.

Other CIP Suggestions: Lenny Reay suggested that the Cemetery Committee take advantage of low interest bonds and get all of the stones repaired at once.

#### 2016 Budget Recommendations

The committee members who will be developing draft budget recommendations will meet December 14 at 9:00 am.

John Moran made a motion to recommend \$4500 dollars for tree removal. Brenda Lake seconded the motion. Motion was approved 5-0.

#### East Readfield Fence Proposal

Lenny Reay asked for the cemetery to consider a fence behind the berms at the East Readfield Cemetery. He would like a having a fence (a) is part of Readfield's history, (b) is what would make those who are unhappy with the berms satisfied and (c) that a fence along the Plains Rd. would be installed at no cost to the taxpayers. He also said that he could get many (up to 100) people with complaints. Lastly he stated that the town should provide the maintenance for the fence.

Deb Doten stated that the Cemetery Committee had never been given a directive to raise money for a fence nor had any one on the Committee made promises as to what would be planted. The money raised has been appreciated and with much acknowledgment to those who have given to the project. She feels the Committee more than met the request of planting lilacs and that the plantings in these berms will produce a living fence that will be quite tall within three years. The Cemetery Committee has received no complaints other than from Mr. Reay, and it is appreciated that he came to speak at this meeting.

John Moran made the motion to install a fence at the East Readfield Cemetery at no cost to the taxpayers by June 2016. Deb Doten seconded the motion. Approved 4-2.

Grace Keene stated that any fence must be low maintenance. History has shown that fences are problematic for maintenance.

Deb Doten made a motion that a sub-committee be formed to explore the options and make recommendations for a fence at the East Readfield Cemetery and that any fence in this cemetery be (a) lowest maintenance possible and (b) of historical significance. John Moran seconded the motion. Approved 5-1. John Moran, Brenda Lake, and Deb Doten will be on the sub-committee. Members absent today will also be invited to work on recommendations for this project.

Next Meeting: January 4, 2016 at 1:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30