

Age Friendly Committee Meeting December 14, 2022

Approved

**Present:** Steve DeAngelis, Ed Dodge, Maggie Edmonson, Eric Johnson, Elaine Katz, Marianne Perry

**Guest:** Donna McGibney

**Old Business:**

- Minutes of November meeting were approved.
- Handy Helper brochure update was moved to the Jan meeting.
- Filing cabinet – still a work in progress
- Most of the meeting time was designated to Readfield U organization and the Senior Café.

**Readfield U planning session:**

- Maggie presented a historical perspective of what took place before it was shut down due to Covid in 2020.
- Lots of discussion of past presentations and ideas for new presentations.
- Maggie will update the website
- Ed will contact the church to verify space availability
- Marianne will make calls to previous presenters
- Donna will work on the brochure
- Elaine will do registration
- The deadline for getting presenters will be Jan 15, 2023 – there is a sign-up sheet on the website
- The (soft) deadline for participants will be middle of Feb.
- Publicity: area Advertiser, Cohen Center, Readfield Town website, we will ask Eric to put it on channel 7, Radio stations and flyers around town.
- A tangential discussion regarding the program A Helping Voice – identifying elder abuse – we will ask the organizer if they can do a presentation during Readfield U.

**Senior Café update:**

- Steve and Marianne attended a very productive discussion with the middle school principal and teachers.
- Everyone is excited to get this off the ground again hopefully starting back around the third week of January 2023

Here are some of the questions that came up:

- When – Tuesdays at 9 or 10 am. Probably in the cafeteria since it is most easily accessible.
- Approximately 6 – 25 participants
- Dan Holman – middle school teacher anticipates that students can organize a program 2X a month that would include art, music, history, projects
- AFC will work on getting a list of presenters – Marianne will make calls and potential participants – will need contact info such as phone, e-mail or text preferences

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- Maggie took home the handbook from previous Senior Café years to see what resources could be helpful
- The school will take care of refreshments It might be an idea to ask local businesses to sponsor a particular week.
- There needs to be a contact person for cancellations.
- There will be someone from the school to act as facilitator each week; AFC will need a point person as well.
- Announcements for Readfield U (Maggie) and Senior Café( Steve) will be submitted for the January Messenger

**Follow-up on Food Pantry:**

- Eric suggested that AFC reach out to the Readfield Food Pantry to see if there is a need for deliveries and how we can fulfill these requests.
- Elaine will meet with Greg Durgin to discuss how the AFC can be helpful.

Meeting adjourned at 10:37

Respectfully submitted, Elaine

Next meeting Wed Jan 11, 2023

Happy Holidays to all and may we all look forward to a healthy new year!

## Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes

December 19th, 2022

**Present:** Brenda Lake, Marianne Perry, Warren Norris, Ben Rodriguez, Tom Molokie, Karen Peterson, Grace Keene, Lee Livingston, Andy Tolman (Chair)

Pam Osborn Excused

**Meeting Minutes for Prior Meeting:** Prior meeting minutes were reviewed and unanimously accepted with minor changes.

### **Sexton's Report by Ben Rodriguez**

Ben reported that one tree of concern is scheduled for removal at Readfield Corner. The cost is \$1700. There is another due for scheduling at Kents Hill.

He is continuing to pursue contracting with Collette's to perform stone/curbing repair this season.

Ben requesting assistance from the Committee for grounds maintenance advice on the Case hill front and the Readfield Corner Reflecting Garden. This would involve flower seed selection and planting choices. Marianne and others would lend their expertise.

Ben noted that the wreaths were in place at each of the cemeteries and he and his crew removed all seasonally inappropriate or worn and faded decorations from the cemeteries.

The Wreaths Across America presentation went as well as possible considering that attendance was limited due to the bad weather. Eric Dyer, Kathryn Woodsum, Ben and Matt and a few others placed the Armed forces wreaths on the recently fabricated stands.

Ben asked the committee for volunteers to reach out to the community at large for help in securing funding or helping in the placement and picking up of the wreaths. He mentioned that Kathryn has agreed to approach the Select Board and discuss possible roles.

This inspired discussion by the Committee. Grace felt December 17<sup>th</sup> was too late to place wreaths. Ben remarked that the added functions will increase residents' interest and appreciation of Readfield's cemeteries, especially the historical importance. Others expressed concern for the cost and its impact at this time of uncertainty.

Tom proposed that we table further discussion and devote the next meeting to the discussion of Wreaths Across America and how best to fit the program, if at all, into Readfield's future. He moved to do so. Brenda 2<sup>nd</sup>. No discussion. Unanimous vote to devote January's meeting to this single subject.

Ben gave a first blush accounting of the number of veterans interred in each cemetery:

- 177 in Readfield Corner
- 85 in East Readfield
- 33 in Kents Hill
- 13 in Case
- 6 in Dudley
- 2 in Huntoon
- 2 in Whittier

Total veterans 318. Ben, Dale Potter-Clark, and Readfield Historical Society were sources for compilation.

If the total was applied to WAA costs with 2 for one savings the amount needed would be \$3180.

Ben's challenge through the winter will be the ARCGis project continuation to search and catalogue grave locations.

### **Old Business**

Tom remarked that the letter he proposed is ready for review and approval. The letter is a commendation letter to the Readfield Historical Society for their excellent work in support of the town and its veterans. Discussion continued and after a motion by Tom to complete this work and submit to committee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brenda, with no further need for discussion this was approved unanimously.

### **New Business**

Budget review commenced. Andy stated that his revision implements Eric's policy statements from the meeting last month. The budget will reduce use of the operating funds. Tree management and stone work are proposed to come out of both perpetual care sources and operating budgets. Stone wall repair projects will come from capital allocations. The budget will reduce the amount of tax revenue to support normal budget items.

- \$4500 from general funds
- \$5000 from operating reserve
- \$10000 from perpetual care

If money from perpetual care remains unspent at the end of the budget period it will remain allocated to that item in the next fiscal year.

Note: perpetual care is funded from burial plot sales. Of each \$400 sale \$300 goes to the perpetual care fund and \$100 goes toward cemetery expansion. The town's ordinance reads, in part: "Seventy-five percent of all monies received from the sale of burial plots will be placed in the Perpetual Care Fund. The interest earned on the perpetual care fund may be used, for upkeep and maintenance, for all town owned cemeteries... The remaining twenty-five percent will be placed in an expansion fund Account. The monies in the expansion fund may be used

only for additional land. The amount of funds on hand will be public knowledge and are to be included in the Town's Annual Report." (Pg. 2).

It is imperative that the public be made aware of the Committee's work to save the residents' tax dollars in this economic environment.

Agenda items: Andy recommended a review of each perpetual care agreement needs to be made to ensure the proper application of funds from each and to ensure that there are no missed opportunities to use those funds where warranted. Tom recommended that at February meeting we begin a discussion about the Cemetery Committee's By-laws and rules for cemetery use.

The meeting for January was set for January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 10:30 am at town hall.

Chair adjourned meeting at 11:28 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Warren Norris

Secretary.