

Shaftsbury Cemetery Committee Meeting

Virtual Meeting through GoToMeeting
Wednesday, May 06, 2020

Present: Kathy Cardiff, Chair; Neal Strong; Peggy Wilson (joined at 9:00); Ken Coonradt, Cemetery Superintendent; Marlene Hall, Clerk; David Keirnan, Town Administrator

Committee members not present: Elinor Hyjek, Joe Herrmann

Kathy Cardiff called meeting to order at 8:30

MINUTES

Minutes were presented from November 6th meeting. Kathy asked for two changes to be made. First under new Business, Center Cemetery needed to be changed to Grandview Cemetery. Second, under Cemetery Ordinance the statement "Dave will include this with other ordinance changes going before the selectboard." Will be added. At 9:00 with a quorum present, Neal motioned to accept minutes with corrections, Kathy seconded. So moved.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

All Cemeteries

- Ken reported he has been working solo for the past couple of months with Austin in school. Austin will be working with him again now that school is out. Ken is hoping Austin will stay on after Ken's retirement.
- Ken has been straightening stones and removing fallen limbs from the cemeteries.
- He has also been cleaning up the cemetery books to help person who will take his place when he retires later this year.
- Jay has started mowing the cemeteries.
- Ken has replaced flags at various cemeteries and has refilled the boxes with operating procedure documents.
- Four spaces have been sold and three sets of corner markers will be installed.
- Ken would like to get more cleaning done, more work at Hollow Cemetery and find more sites there.

Maple Hill Cemetery

- Ken and Austin will be fixing the split rail fence.

Village Cemetery

- Large headstone knocked over by fallen tree will be placed back on base.

Center Cemetery

- Cleaning in Huntington area will be finished then old portion of Grandview will be completed.
- Front fence needs to be painted.

Grandview Cemetery

- Removed trash from cemetery.
- John Marah has finished at Grandview for now and has moved to Maple Hill to clean and straighten stones.

NEW BUSINESS

L & G Fabrication was not hopeful about making post tops for fences.

Grandview Cemetery

Grandview needs to be gridded in the new section created by the clearing last year. Ken will ask Dave Mance about doing the work or recommending someone to do it.

Ken's retirement

Kathy would like to be sure that the person hired to replace Ken has no conflict of interest such as contracts to mow, plow or dig at the cemeteries.

Kathy asked Dave if the position had been posted. Dave will go over the position duties with Ken before posting the job. Dave suggested that the committee pick two people to interview candidates and make a recommendation to the entire committee.

Abandoned Lots

Fifty to sixty spaces would become available if abandoned lots were to be sold. Dave will contact the attorney to get an estimate to research the lots and go through probate court.

Cemetery Fund

\$34,180.07 is available for cemetery repairs through the Cemetery Fund. In March, the town voted in favor of opening up this money to any work needing to be done at the cemeteries.

OTHER BUSINESS**Fund from North Bennington**

Kathy has applied for the funds to be used for cleaning and straightening headstones at Grandview Cemetery. She will submit a report to North Bennington for their Annual Report describing the work that has been done at Grandview.

Cemetery Walkthrough

Due to social distancing regulations (COVID-19) the cemetery walkthrough will be postponed until next Fall.

Hollow Cemetery

Ken would like to pursue a right-of-way to the Hollow Cemetery. He will contact the current landowner to see if they would be agreeable to this. Kathy noted that Carol Church gave a right-of-way to the town but she doesn't think that would be accessible, Ken agreed.

With no other business to come before the committee, meeting adjourned at 9:38.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3rd 10:00am via GoToMeeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene Hall