

Shaftsbury Cemetery Committee Meeting

Virtual Meeting through Zoom
Wednesday, April 14, 2021
(Draft)

Present: Kathy Cardiff, Chair; Elinor Hyjek; Peggy Wilson; Neal Strong; Michael Albans, Cemetery Superintendent; Marlene Hall, Town Clerk; David Kiernan, Town Administrator (Neal Strong left at 9:30)

Committee members not present: Joe Herrmann

Kathy Cardiff called meeting to order at 9:00

MINUTES

Minutes were presented from the February 3rd meeting. Elinor motioned to accept minutes as presented, Neal seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

FUND FOR NORTH BENNINGTON

Kathy will apply for the fund in November, she will need an estimate for the new fence in Grandview before she submits the application.

MATTISON DEED

Dave spoke with Mr. Mattison, he will be contacting an attorney to straighten out the deed.

ABANDONED LOTS

Dave will work on abandoned lots once other legal issues are resolved, may be a year before he can work on them.

SHAFTSBURY HOLLOW SIGN

Mike is working on the sign; he hopes to have it completed soon.

OPERATING PROCEDURES

Cemetery Operating Procedures were presented for approval.

Peggy requested that the list of cemeteries be turned into a grid to make them easier to read. There was a discussion as to whether to leave the GPS locations on the "Location List" of cemeteries. It was decided to let the Selectboard make the final decision on that.

After the discussion, Peggy made the motion to approve the Operating Procedures documents, Elinor seconded. Motion Passed 4-0

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- **Spring Cleaning:** Spring cleaning should be done by April 9. April 30 is the last day to collect personal articles from plots. Mike will clean out broken items, plastic flowers and "over the top" decorations after April 30.
- **Grandview:** Mike has contacted L&G Fabricators; they should come out soon to look at what repairs are needed for the Grandview fence. Mike has found some fencing on the Marketplace, he would like the committee to look at it as a possible replacement for sections of the Grandview fencing.
- **Sales:** A few gravesites were sold over the winter. There is more interest now that the weather is warmer.
- **Lot Sizes:** Mike is looking into the possibility of creating and selling smaller lots in the future.
- **Cemetery Records:** Mike is keeping more detailed records when gravesites are sold. He has been working on updating old records and make them clearer as to who the owner of each plot is.
- **Walk throughs:** Mike and Cathy are planning Spring walk throughs, all committee members are asked to join in.

CEMETERY TRUST ACCOUNT

Dave explained that:

- The Cemetery Trust Fund and the Perpetual Care Fund are under the control of the Board of Trustees
- The Cemetery Reserve Fund was never properly established. In March, 2020 a ballot article passed to create a Cemetery Capital Fund from the Reserve Fund. The ballot article follows:

7. Shall the Town of Shaftsbury create a Cemetery Capital Improvement Reserve Fund and transfer all monies in the Cemetery Reserve Fund to the Cemetery Capital Improvement Reserve Fund?

YES 743

NO 180

BLANK 111

- The town has petitioned the Court to move the Cemetery Trust Fund from the control of the Board of Trustees to a working account for the Cemetery Committee. This has stalled in Court.
- The Court has confused the Cemetery Reserve Fund and the Town Reserve Fund.
- Because of the previous two bullet points, there is approximately \$70,000 now frozen in Cemetery accounts until this is settled in the Court.

NEW BUSINESS

BURIAL LOT SIZE

After some discussion regarding the traditional lot size of 6-8 plots and Mike noting that the people he has spoken to want only one or two plots the motion was made by Elinor; To approve 1-2 and up to 4 plot size lots in the new gridding of all Shaftsbury Cemeteries, with the flexibility to increase or decrease as needed. Motion seconded by Peggy. Motion passed 3-0.

SHAFTSBURY HOLLOW MOWING

Kathy asked and Mike confirmed that starting this year the Shaftsbury Hollow Cemetery will be mowed twice a year.

CEMETERY WALK THROUGH

Weather permitting the Committee will hold their annual walk through as follows.

Wednesday, April 21, Committee will meet at Town Hall at 9:00, they will walk Waite Cemetery, Maple Hill Cemetery and Center Cemetery if time allows.

Wednesday, April 28, Committee will meet at Town Hall at 9:00, they will walk Center Cemetery (if not walked the week before), Village Cemetery and Grandview Cemetery.

Shaftsbury Hollow Cemetery will be scheduled once the mowing has been done.

With no other business to come before the committee, Peggy made the motion to adjourn, Elinor seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:15.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4th 9:00am via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene Hall