

Shaftsbury Cemetery Committee Meeting

Cole Hall
Wednesday, June 2, 2021
(Draft)

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

Committee members not present: Joe Herrmann

Kathy Cardiff called meeting to order at 9:00

MINUTES

Minutes were presented from the April 14th meeting. Elinor motioned to accept minutes with one typo correction, Neal seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

SHAFTSBURY HOLLOW

Mike has a sign ready and will speak with the land owner about placing it. He has called the owner several times and is waiting for a response. He has also left a message for Jay Coonradt about scheduling a mowing for Shaftsbury Hollow.

GRANDVIEW CEMETERY

Dave reported that there has been an issue with one of the grave sites in Grandview. The site is over decorated and out of compliance with the regs. He plans to set up a spot at the Town Office to hold items that are removed from sites until the owner can come by and pick them up. Broken items will be thrown away. After some discussion regarding the out of compliance site at Grandview, the committee decided it would be best to move slowly in regards to asking for a cleanup of the items present. Issue was tabled.

CEMETERY REGULATION VIOLATORS

After some discussion it was decided that

- A letter should be sent to any violators of the decoration regs before they are removed to allow the family to remove the items themselves.
- Any decorations that are deemed in good shape will be taken to the Town Office for storage until they can be picked up by family members.
- Any broken decoration will be trashed.
- Bushes, shrubs or perennials planted in the ground will be removed after a letter is sent to the family.

OPERATING PROCEDURES

Mike will work on a one-page handout to go along with the Operating Procedures that will be easier for people to read and understand exactly what is and isn't allowed at the cemeteries. He will also present a mock up of a sign to be posted near the operating procedure boxes at each cemetery with the same information on it.

After some discussion, the committee decided to make a few more changes to the updates operating procedures and present it at the next meeting before sending it on to the Selectboard for final approval.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Shaftsbury's Main Cemetery needs

WAITE

Some headstones in need of straightening
Old flag replaced

MAPLE HILL

Rules box continuous fill

VILLAGE

Some headstones have tree/shrub growth. Contact families, if possible, for removal
Fence estimate along the south side of cemetery to match north and west
Possible removal of bittersweet vines along north and south fence
Few headstones to be straightened
Possible cleaning of a handful of headstones

CENTER

Keep an eye on low spot seeding and fill for possible gridding of new graves
Multiple headstones in need of repair and/or straightening
Major cleaning of headstones behind Huntington markers and along 7A.
Possible removal of hung-up tree on side of section B
Some bushes and trees on headstones in need of removal
Continue to pursue purchase of historic church for township
Replacement of a handful of wood rails along north border
Prepare for VOCA visit in October.

GRANDVIEW

Continue gridding along Lamb Rd. with Dave Mance
Possible road and grading along west border to accommodate single row of plots
Straightening of very few headstones that were previously cleaned
Estimate for metal fence repair along Lamb Rd. from corner of Grandview to past entrance
Decision on what to do with old building in back.
Decision on cleanup/rules/grandfathered deeds
Some straightening of headstones throughout

From the list above, the most important needs are as follows:

Estimate for metal fence repair along Lamb Rd in Grandview
Continue gridding in Grandview
Straightening of headstones in Grandview
Decision on cleanup/rules/grandfathered deeds in Grandview
Cleaning of headstones in Village

HIDDEN BUILDING

There is a building at Grandview that is hidden in some overgrown bushes. Dave, Mike A and Mike Y will take a look at the building to see if it can be moved. If it is possible to move it Mike suggested that the town auction it off as it is of no value to the town or cemetery and would cost a lot to fix up.

CENTER CEMETERY CLEANUP WITH VOCA

A representative from VOCA will be here on October 2 to help with cleaning and straightening stones at Center Cemetery.

GRANDVIEW RECORDS

The records received from the Grandview Cemetery in 2017 has been removed from a Macy's bag and are now being stored in a banker's box. Mike currently has the records to go over them and when done, will return to the vault at the Town Clerk's Office.

Maps plats for all cemeteries are in the Town Clerk's vault and can be copied at any time.

With no other business to come before the committee, Ellie made the motion to adjourn, Neal seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:30.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 30th 9:00am, upstairs at Cole Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene Hall