

Shaftsbury Cemetery Committee Meeting

Cole Hall
Wednesday, June 1, 2022
(Draft)

Present: Kathy Cardiff, Chair; Betsey Habberfield; Peggy Wilson; Neal Strong (arrived at 9:20) Jen Holley, Cemetery Superintendent; Marlene Hall, Town Clerk

Members not present: Joe Herrmann

Kathy Cardiff called meeting to order at 9:00

MINUTES

Minutes were presented from the May 4th meeting. Peggy motioned to accept minutes as presented, Betsey seconded. Motion passed 3-0-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

5-31 - Spoke to a Citizen (John Wood) and handled a concern about perpetual care in our cemeteries. He is not happy about the condition of Center cemetery before the Holiday. He thinks it should be mowed more often. I spoke with Jay and John a few times during the day. Mr. Wood insists it was not mowed twice before the Holiday, but it was – The mow on the 31st after the Holiday was the 3rd mow of Center. I apologized to him and explained that we are doing the best we can with perpetual care.

5-29 - Did a drive around to all cemeteries and checked rules and flags, added/straightened a few. Tried again to extend the flagpole at Waite (it does not cooperate nicely). Found a veteran's stone at Village covered with grass/hidden and I uncovered it and added a flag as it was missed.

5-27 - Announced fence survey on FB.

5-26 - Replaced flag at Village.

- Sanded metal post in areas where paint was flaking off. Spray painted metal part of post. Sanded wooden base part of same sign, and repainted that area with white paint.

- Picked up some garbage on the side of the road in front of the cemetery.

- Replaced Rules with new ones. They were not too bad.

- Spoke to Jay about brush pile at Grandview (request from G. Briggs that it be removed before the Holiday) He is scheduled to remove it tomorrow 5-27.

- Spoke to Terry Hill at L&G - He "hopes" to be at Grandview in 2 weeks to begin the installation and will call me when up there so we can get an estimate going for the rest of the fence. They are having trouble getting workers. He said he is doing the best he can.

5-25 - Working on GIS / JSON plotting software.

5-24 - Spoke to Maggie Mann and sent her to Mahar to help her line up the opening of her fathers plot for the burial of her dad's ashes.

- Met Jay at Center and he muscled the Merrit O'Dell stone a few inches to straighten it for me. I then fixed/leveled the two military plaques behind that stone (raised one) to the level of the other, and filled hole with crushed stone, topsoil and then seeded. I fixed 3 cornerstones of the same plot that were sunk and really bad. I also used soil and crushed stone to fill hole next to the road to "try" and prevent future storms from doing the same erosion damage to the area. It was caused from storm run off from the road

5-23-5/24 - GIS / JSON / GPS Research - Found zerion :)

5-21 - Building 5 Excel Data files for Cemify (Data Analysis & Migration - Database export, ~30 columns, ~10,000 lines) from the Master.csv file from Nemrc. Actual: 10,415 lines of code - broken down into each cemetery in the format Cemify wanted (using their template). Changing our data format to theirs - for each entry. Their estimate was \$125. an hour at 15-20 hours. I did it in 3 hours and I'm salary. You're Welcome :)

5-16 - Spoke with Mr. Gary O'Dell who was very upset about his parents stone being moved at Center. I told him I would go over there and look at it. I went to Center and looked at the stone, I believe it was pushed off the foundation by storm/rain damage and it caused a hole from water erosion. I will fix the stone if I can and keep him posted. His uncle's stone was the stone I fixed the Veteran's medallion on last week which calmed him a bit.

5-13 - Gathered topsoil and graystone from the piles at Center Cemetery to use at Grandview. I repurposed dirt (ok, stole) topsoil from a grave digger. How bad is that? Dave, if you read these logs, That's Funny!

- Met Gary Briggs at Grandview to fill in the Buddington Monument that we up righted. I realized that I brought way too much graystone with me and to reach the topsoil under the graystone, I had to use some of the graystone - conveniently, there are several stones in the immediate area of Buddington that needed to be fixed. I dug out the foundation stone of Charles M. (small stone), and used the graystone to level the foundation stone and replaced the downed stone. That stone has been mowed around for years. Gary arrived and we filled the Buddington area with graystone and topsoil, seeded it and - He said he had time to do another since we were there and there were more to do. So we did another small stone (Mary J). So we finished up Buddington and fixed 2 others while we were there.

5-11 - Flag Distribution on Veterans Graves in Grandview.

- With the help of Gary Briggs, we fixed the Buddington, zinc monument in Grandview that was tipping over. We used 2 person muscle to move it back onto it's foundation and adjust the foundation blocks back into position. We have an area around it to fill with dirt and stone. We are going to meet there on Friday to complete this project.

5-10 - Flag Distribution on Veterans Graves in Grandview.

5-9 - Flag Distribution on Veterans Graves in Village and Center with Ron and Debbie Jennings.

5-8 - Acquired the painted needed for the white metal main signs to touch them up.

5-7 - Spring Cleaning - Grandview, Waite, and Maple Hill - Removed all dead plants and broken pots, and fake flowers.

- Transfer Station - 2 truck loads

5-5 - Spring Cleaning - Center - Removed all dead plants and broken pots, and fake flowers. - Transfer Station - 2 truck loads

- Met a citizen Ron O'Dell - his brother's Veteran's Medallion fell off his stone and he was upset. I dug around in the grass and found it. I told him I would fix it. I took the medallion to my husband's business and he shined it up for me on a machine, and I went back to Center and cleaned up the Stone and used liquid nails for stone to reattach the medallion.

5-4 - Cemetery Committee Meeting

5-3 - Spring Cleaning - Village - Removed all dead plants and broken pots, and fake flowers.

- Transfer Station - 1 truck load

- Fixed white main sign - hook and re-mounted sign.

5-2 - Cemetery walkthroughs - Waite, Maple Hill, and Center and Shaftsbury Hollow.

OLD BUSINESS

PRIORITY LIST

The Committee went over the priority list to update progress.

FENCE SURVEY

The survey received only 3 responses, all wanted metal fencing.

SUPERINTENDENT PURCHASES

Jen asked for parameters regarding purchases she needs to make for general maintenance of the cemeteries. Jen and Kathy will meet with Dave to discuss.

CEMIFY

Jen has done a lot of work preparing for the launch of the Cemify program that will save the town at least \$2,000.00. After some discussion on the program, Neal made the motion to accept the purchase of Cemify – with an initial cost of under \$21,000.00 and \$1,359.00 per year (guaranteed not to increase for 3 years). Betsey seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0-0.

iFormBuilder

Betsey made the motion to pay the cost of iFormBuilder (a program used by Jen that will accompany Cemify), the cost \$150.00/year. Peggy seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

CENTER CEMETERY THEFTS

Live plants near the road and some artificial flowers were taken. Superintendent removed the artificial flowers as per the Cemetery Regs.

Rules & Regs

Tabled until July meeting.

Shaftsbury Historical Society

Kathy will invite James Cassidy (from the Shaftsbury Historical Society) to the next committee meeting to discuss any projects we may be able to work on together.

ARPA FUND COMMITTEE

Betsey is a member of the ARPA Fund committee and reported that postcards will be mailed out soon to all Shaftsbury residents asking for input on how to use the million plus dollars Shaftsbury will be receiving. She encouraged everyone to send in their ideas.

With no other business to come before the committee, Peggy made the motion to adjourn, Betsey seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:50.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 6th, 2022 at 9:00am, upstairs at Cole Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene Hall