

Shaftsbury Cemetery Committee Meeting

Cole Hall
Wednesday, July 5, 2023

Present: Kathy Cardiff, Chair; Betsey Habberfield; Peggy Wilson; Neal Strong; Rosemary Lindsey; Jen Holley, Cemetery Superintendent; Marlene Hall, Town Clerk; David Kiernan, Town Administrator

Members not present:

Kathy Cardiff called meeting to order at 9:00

MINUTES

Minutes were presented from the June 7th meeting. Betsey motioned to accept minutes as presented, Peggy seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0.

CHANGE OF MEETING TIME

After some discussion, it was decided that the meetings would remain at 9:00 on the first Wednesday of each month.

AUGUST HISTORY PROGRAM

McCullough Library and the Shaftsbury Cemetery Committee will hold a community program on August 20 from 1-2:30.

The committee will provide pop-up tents and water for participants. A title for the event is in the works.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Burials: Since our last meeting there have been 3 burials.

Arlene Scott - Center
Helen & Stanley Shaw - Grandview

Thank You Notes:

I have some Thank You notes (Tamarack , L&G, Greater Heights) going out to a few companies, please sign them as I would like them to come from the Town & Committee and not just the Superintendent.

- The Town Administrator had the Large Maple from Center Section B, removed as it was half dead. Tamarack removed it and did a great job.

White Lot Update - Grandview:

The 2 Birch Trees have been removed by Greater Heights and they have been paid by the White Family. Greater Heights will complete the job by grinding the two stumps as soon as they can get it into their schedule. I will work with the family (most likely in the fall, as the tree will have a better chance of survival) on planting the dwarf flowering tree in the lot.

August Program - Preparations:

I asked Jay to adjust his mowing schedule to accommodate the August Cemetery Program and have Center Cemetery mowed on August 17th or 18th - so it is beautiful for the Program on the 20th. He said Absolutely, he can do this.

Cemify Update: July & August is mostly being Dedicated to working on Grandview Cemetery.

Picture taking is continuing in Center Cemetery, and I did a little trimming on the North side of Section B.

Pinning System: Dave promised the pinning system will be ordered very soon.

Grandview: Roof on small building is on the list to be fixed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Bryce Johnson is interested in joining the Cemetery Committee. He will be invited to the August meeting.

PERPETUAL CARE

A discussion regarding perpetual care and whether stone maintenance is included was introduced by Jen reading from the book A GRAVEYARD PRESERVATION PRIMER:

“Early graveyards are outdoor museums, containing some of America’s earliest examples of stone carver’s art, an all but lost traditional art form. Each tombstone is an irreplaceable historical document, containing some of Americas earliest written history. The ready accessibility of these museums allows all of us, o tony historians, to view, to appreciate, to study these documents, to enjoy their artwork, to learn of our own history. They are invaluable to educational tools through which we can teach our history to new generations, through which we can impart a sense of our historic past.

A civilized society respects its past, values its history and protects its natural environment as well. If we are that society, we have a strong investment in our early graveyards and must work to safeguard that investment.”

The book Digging Deep (a reference for municipalities regarding cemeteries within their town) refers to perpetual care as including cleaning and repairing of headstones, including private cemeteries.

After much discussion, it was decided that the town will concentrate on the public cemeteries first and the private cemeteries later

We have an extra DPW person for approximately 3 months. During that time, it is hoped that work can get started on regular maintenance of the stones.

With no other business to come before the committee, Peggy made the motion to adjourn, Rosemary seconded. Motion passed 4-0-0 (Neal left early). Meeting adjourned at 10:30.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 2nd, 2023 at 9:00am, upstairs at Cole Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene Hall