

East Montpelier Cemetery Commission

The East Montpelier Cemetery Commission met at the Coburn home on January 20, 2015 at 2:30 PM. The following members were present: Pauline Coburn, Chair, Allen Ploof, Elliott Morse, Gary Hudson and Frederick Strong, Clerk. Also present were Rick Barstow and his daughter Julia.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes of previous meeting and the Annual Report to the town were approved.

Elliott reported that he believes that only 10 granite posts will need to be ordered to finish the Cutler cemetery fence renovation. The anticipated cost will be \$175 to \$200 per post.

It was agreed to prioritize cleanup of the brush at the Tinkham cemetery.

Elliott introduced the Barstow's who have expressed an interest in assisting in the upkeep of our cemeteries to lessen the load on Allen and Elliott. An hourly wage of \$14 per hour was offered to them. It was **voted** to hire them, and Elliott will insure that they are given an orientation on what needs to be done in each cemetery.

NEW BUSINESS

As the result of concerns about the hazardous nature of mowing the hilly and uneven terrain in the Cutler cemetery, an investigation of the possibility of adding a roll bar to the Kubota lawn tractor proved to be fruitless. The alternative is to replace the current tractor with a new one. Allen and Elliott have extensively researched the alternatives at both the Kubota and John Deere dealers. Both had some positive characteristics, however the John Deere suitable for our use is not offered with a 48" mowing deck. A wider deck is unsuitable for the hills and hummocks at the Cutler cemetery. This in addition to the higher cost eliminated the John Deere as an option.

After thorough evaluation of the features of the Kubota models offering FWD, diesel engine etc. it was **voted** to purchase a Kubota model BX1870 with turf tires and a 48" mowing deck from Champlain Valley Equipment. Elliott believes that he and Allen can negotiate \$3000 for our existing tractor with a purchase price of \$11,200 for the BX1870.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM. The next meeting will be at the call of the Chair.

Frederick C. Strong, Clerk

NOTE: 22 Jan 2015

The Morse Farm has offered to purchase the existing Kubota in "as is" condition for \$3200. Champlain Valley has agreed to sell a Kubota BX1870 with turf tires and a 48" mowing deck for \$11200 and were pleased that they did not need to take the old unit in trade.