

East Montpelier Cemetery Commission

The East Montpelier Cemetery Commission met at the Town Office at 2:00 PM on September 6, 2018. The following members were present: Tim Lamson, Chair, Elliott Morse, Gary Hudson, Jonathan Boucher, and Emily Goyette, Clerk.

Bruce Johnson, Town Administrator, and Don Welch, Town Treasurer, were also in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS

Agenda Item A: The minutes of the April 10, 2018 meeting were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item B: Discussion was had concerning the exact location of the Gould cemetery near the intersection of Jacobs Road and Sparrow Farm Road and the displacement of various stones. The cemetery is located on land now owned by Mr. Birnbaum, who purchased the property from the Sparrows in the 1990s. Tim advised that there are known to be 18 gravesites there dating back to the 1800s. Only three stones are evident at this time. Bruce Johnson spoke to the State Archeologist who is willing to search the site for additional stones at no cost to the town if we obtain Mr. Birnbaum's permission. Elliott moved and Tim seconded a motion to move forward with this proposal. All were in favor. Tim will contact Mr. Birnbaum to obtain his permission and then speak to the State Archeologist. It was suggested that something be erected around the stones, such as a fence, to set the area off.

Jonathan moved and Gary seconded a motion to get the coordinates of the boundaries of all the East Montpelier cemeteries. All were in favor.

Agenda Item C: Bruce and Don brought to our attention that while we are in name a "commission" that at some point in the past was voted by the town to create, we act like a "committee" similar to the Recreation Board. They suggested that it might make more sense for the group to submit the cemetery budget to the Selectboard each year and have the cemetery commission's budget be part of the town's operating budget instead of a separate item to be voted on at town meeting. The town processes and pays the salaries and expenses for maintenance and provides the insurance; and it's the town's responsibility to maintain the cemeteries anyway. This status change would need to be voted on at the next Town Meeting. No one had any objections, but Elliott would like to continue the tradition of electing the members. Bruce will find out if that is possible.

Agenda Item D: Tim and Elliott reported on work beyond routine mowing/clean-up that has been done since the last meeting: mending three stones, dealing with wild parsnip, cutting the brush going into the Village cemetery. They will deal with Tinkham and Quaker fencing next year.

Tim proposed the creation of a "continuity" binder that lists the various tasks of the commission. Elliott moved and Jonathan seconded a motion for Tim to create same. All were in favor.

Agenda Item E: No other business discussed.

Agenda Item F: At 3:19 pm, Elliott moved and Gary seconded a motion to adjourn. All agreed. The next meeting will be at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Goyette, Clerk