

TOWN OF EAST MONTPELIER
CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEETING
Saturday January 8, 2022
AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING

A. 10:15 AM CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Tim Lamson, Chairman, at 10:15 am. The following members were present: Elliott Morse, Mark Lane, and Emily Goyette, Clerk. Florence Morse also attended.

ADDITONS TO THE AGENDA - None

APPROVE MINUTES OF 10/02/21 MEETING – No changes

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

B. 10:20 AM DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

1. Update on 2021 year-end activities

a. Equipment Maintenance

1. Maintenance performed on Scag Mower only

b. New Equipment Purchased

1. Power tools: 2 front wheel drive push lawn mowers, 1 trimmer
2. Hand tools: pole saw, hand saw, axe, shovel, 1 season gloves

c. Cemeteries' Status

1. The small cemeteries: All had seasonal mowing and trimming. Willard Cutler had a large maple fall over the fence and needed to be sawed and moved. Clark had a large pine fall that need to be sawed up and moved. Peck had a large maple to saw and remove. Gould, Wheeler, White, and Quaker needed no extra work except propping up a stone or two and removing some fallen debris.
2. Large cemeteries: East Village had 40 posts installed. We trimmed a lot of trees and cut some down that were encroaching headstones. Cutler had some large limbs put into the woods, and we cut all the small trees and brush near the road. Doty had only standard maintenance, less than a dozen sales and burials.

2. Establish goals for the 2022 season

a. Equipment Maintenance and New Equipment Needed

1. Elliott will use Dave Guilmette, East Montpelier resident, instead of the Kubota and Skag dealers since equipment is now out of warranty.
2. A new chainsaw will be purchased.

b. Cemetery Work

1. East Village needs 10 more posts installed and the front fencing needs painting.
2. Cate looks good, but may require some fence work and painting in 2022.
3. Seasonal mowing and trimming

c. Cemetery Guest Log and Find-a Grave Updates

1. Tim made a prototype to view. All agreed that it was excellent. The plan is to start with the smaller cemeteries: White, Gould, Clark, Wheeler, and William Cutler Farm.

2. Emily will photograph the headstones in William Cutler and Gould cemeteries and upload to Find-a-Grave.com.
 - d. Cemetery Crew for 2022, and Committee members for 2022
 1. Elliott, Tim, and Nick are the current crew but that may change. Tim's full-time job may limit his availability for some cemetery work. **Elliott, Tim, and Nick request that the Selectboard allow them to work without wearing masks while laboring outside alone in the cemeteries.** They of course agree to don masks should there be visitors or whenever indoors/outdoors for meetings.
 2. Current committee members present agree to continue next year if the Selectboard so desires.
 - e. Sexton Duties
 1. Elliott will continue to supervise full burials and perform cremation burials.
 2. Elliott no longer wants to be responsible for the sale of plots. Shouldn't this be the Town's responsibility now that the Selectboard oversees the Cemetery Committee? There is confusion regarding where available plots are located. It's recommended that the cemeteries with available plots be surveyed and the maps updated. There is also confusion regarding who should be able to buy a plot. The current criteria are residency in East Montpelier or "connections" to the Town that aren't spelled out. **We request that the Selectboard address this issue.**
3. 2022-2023 Budget Request
- a. Elliott moved and Mark seconded a motion to request the same expense budget of \$22,000 from the Selectboard. All were in favor.
 - b. There was some concern that expenses may not have been logged properly to some categories and it was difficult to tell from the financials what expenses paid for by credit card were for. Perhaps the accounting program would allow for more detail? Should some expense categories be consolidated or removed?
4. Set date and location for next meeting
- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 4:00 PM at the Doty cemetery.

C. 11:10 AM OTHER BUSINESS

Normally, the flags for Veterans' burial sites are removed for the winter and new flags installed before Memorial Day. The American Legion agency who supplies and installs the new flags each year at a cost of \$150 has requested that we leave flags in place so it's easier for them to place the new flags in the spring. Per Elliott, flags get dislodged and blown over during the winter anyway which he finds disrespectful. Elliott moved and Tim seconded a motion to revert to the former practice of removing the flags when winter arrives. The motion passed unanimously.

D. 11:10 AM ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 11:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Goyette, Clerk