

**TOWN OF EAST MONTPELIER
CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday April 27, 2022, 4:00PM at Doty Cemetery
2022 Season Preview and Green Burial Topic**

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Tim Lamson, Chairman, at 4:05 pm. The following members were present: Elliott Morse, Jon Boucher, Mark Lane, and Emily Goyette, Clerk. Florence Morse, Martha Holden, and Alan Ploof also attended.

1. Approve Minutes of the January 8, 2022 meeting – no changes
2. Additions to the Agenda – discuss use of a natural stone as a headstone
3. Public Comment – none

B. DISCUSSION OF 2022 ACTIVITIES AND GREEN BURIALS

In deference to our guests, the agenda order was adjusted.

1. Green Burials

Jon Boucher shared his knowledge of green burials performed in Green Mount Cemetery in Montpelier and the Robinson Cemetery in Calais. The deceased is usually buried in a shroud, or a pine, wicker, or cardboard box. Green Mount has the equipment necessary to perform winter burials. Jon believes the citizens of East Montpelier would highly favor this option. Emily asked if this was a decision the Cemetery Committee could make on its own or whether it was a decision for the Selectboard that appoints the committee. Tim suggested that town members vote on green burials, since they have the largest stake in the matter. Jon will check with the Town Administrator.

2. Use of a Natural Stone as a Headstone

On behalf of the Claytons, Alan Ploof described and showed pictures to the Committee of the stone that the family would like to use in their plot. He understands that a foundation must be placed under the stone to a depth of 4 feet or until ledge is hit. The foundation would display the names of those buried there. The Committee unanimously agreed to this request.

3. 2022 Year Preview:

a) Equipment/Maintenance

i. Maintenance for Scag Mower and Kabota

The Scag mower is still under warranty and will be serviced by Tucker Machine Company in Barre. The Kubota may not need service as it was hardly used last year. Dave Guilmette was approached but declined.

- b) New Equipment and materials to purchase
 - i. Power tools: a new chainsaw may be needed if anything big needs to be cut this year and a new trimmer might be needed as well
 - ii. Hand tools: good to go for now
 - iii. Miscellaneous: gloves, glasses, gas, oil, spark plugs, trimmer wire, posts, wood for information boxes, paint, and general upkeep
- c) Cemeteries status: what's been done and to do:
 - i. The small cemeteries: All had seasonal mowing and trimming. Nick and Tim have a goal to make registration boxes for all small cemeteries. Some stones need to be righted. Tree limbs, and fallen debris need to be sawed and cleaned up.
 - ii. Large cemeteries: East Village had 40 posts installed and 10 more are needed. Front fencing needs painting. Some tree trimming may be required. Elliott is not going to open the cemetery until the ground dries out.
 Cutler has some debris to remove around old maples. Some stones need righting and cleaning, many at gravesites with no known living relatives to be approached to pay for the work. Elliott will take a survey to see how many need attention and will get a quote from Matt Peake.
 Cate requires some fence repair and painting.
 Doty needs only standard maintenance, plot sales, and burials. Two full burials are scheduled for May. A burn is needed for the pile of tree trimmings in the corner of the cemetery. Elliott will ask Pat, the excavator, to level the pile.
- d) Sexton duties (Elliott):
 - i. Full and Cremation Burials, and Sales
 Elliott has been concerned about the accuracy of the data the committee has regarding where available plots in Doty are actually located. Jon is meeting shortly with a woman who surveys cemeteries and he is going to ask her about surveying Doty and providing us with an updated map. Jon is willing to help with plot sales.
 - ii. Corner Markers – no discussion
- e) Cemetery Guest log prototype approved
 - i. White, Gould, Clark, Wheeler, and Cutler Farm are this year's goal.

C. OTHER BUSINESS

Next meeting date and time to be determined at a later date via email among Committee members.

D. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Emily Goyette, Clerk