

TOWN OF EAST MONTPELIER
CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday October 5, 2022, 4:00 PM, at Doty Cemetery

A. 4:00 PM 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 and Rosie Laquerre, Town Clerk, also attended.

1. Additions to the agenda - none
2. Approve minutes of the April 27, 2022 meeting – no changes
3. Public comment - none

B. 4:05 PM DISCUSSION OF ISSUES AND CEMETERY CONDITIONS

1. New member – Rosie Laquerre, who currently prepares/processes the deeds for burial plots, would like to join the committee. All agreed and the Select Board will be asked to approve her committee membership.
2. Update on 2022 year-end activities
 - a) How the new equipment is working: mowers, trimmers
Tim reported that this was a hard year because some equipment wasn't working very well. As an example, he had to spend a great deal of time taking apart and fixing the rear drive push mower.
 - b) Maintenance for Scag, Kubota
Before the start of the season next spring, the Scag mower will be serviced by Tucker Machine Company in Barre and the Kubota tractor will be serviced by Champlain Valley Equipment.
 - c) Old equipment that needs replacing next year
Needed replacements will be identified and included in next year's budget.
 - d) New equipment needed: spare tires and jack for trailers
3. Doty Cemetery
 - a) Burials and overall condition this year
There was discussion about the advantages/disadvantages of using metal corner markers instead of the stone corner markers going forward. Stone markers come from Rock of Ages and take up to three months to receive. Four holes need to be dug to place them and they may become overgrown. Metal markers are spiked, easy to push into the ground, and can be located using a metal detector if overgrown. The cost of metal markers is \$2.75 each for up to three letters. Plot prices currently include \$150 for corner markers and Jon suggested that plot prices should not be reduced. Tim feels the plot purchaser be given a choice and if stone markers are chosen, they can be installed when the headstone is installed.
 - b) Maps, surveying: Jon has the floor
The front portion of the cemetery was surveyed in the 1990s and it was agreed that the back area of the cemetery should be surveyed and mapped as there are hundreds of lots left to sell and not all plots are the same size. The initial plan for Doty included walkways and a paved road. Jon suggests using Sunwise Surveying who has mapped Berlin cemeteries. The cost may require putting the job out to bid and Jon will ask Gina to add surveying to the Select Board agenda.

4. East Village Cemetery

- a) Trimmed trees/brush
- b) 15 Fence posts and painting entrance to be done
- c) Woodchuck holes

The woodchucks have been stealing the patriotic flags from grave sites and leaving the flag sticks at the entrances to their holes. Past efforts to eradicate the pests from the cemetery have failed. Filling the holes with stones from the Town garage will be tried next. The topic of flags led to Elliott mentioning his disapproval of leaving the flags at veterans' gravesites in place over winter. The group that replaces the flags each spring had made that request. Elliott finds this disrespectful and will remove the flags after Veteran's Day. A "V" will be added to the gravesite database for future reference.

5. Tinkham and Quaker Cemeteries

- a) Chain sawing large maple limb that fell over recently is needed
- b) Woodchuck holes

6. Cutler Cemetery

- a) Sawed Maple limbs and stacked wood
- b) Garbage: diapers again
- c) Headstone repairs

There was discussion about the need for the repair of headstones in several cemeteries that belong to families no longer in the area. Repair of same would fall on the Town and it was suggested that such expense be included in the capital budget in future. Mark Lane and Matt Peake will submit an estimate for these repairs.

7. Clark Cemetery

- a) Righting stones: many are on sharp angles that need to be straightened

8. Gould and Cutler Farm Cemeteries

- a) Cut back branches and large maple

9. Peck Cemetery

- a) Cut pine branches
- b) Some righting of stones is needed

10. Wheeler and White Cemeteries

- a) Condition, and upkeep – not specifically addressed

11. Cemetery Guest log is still in the works

They will be installed in Wheeler, White, Gould, Cutler Farm, and Clark cemeteries first.

C. OTHER BUSINESS

The cemeteries will be closed to auto traffic on November 1st. The next (budget) meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 3:00 PM at the Municipal Building, if available.

D. ADJOURN

Elliott moved and Tim seconded a motion to adjourn at 5 pm.

Respectfully submitted.,
Emily Goyette, Clerk