

**TOWN OF EAST MONTPELIER  
CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, January 4, 2023, 3:00 PM at the Town Office  
Budget Adoption and 2023 Season Preview**

**A. 3:00 PM      CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Tim Lamson, Chairman, at 3:03 pm. The following members were present: Elliott Morse, Jon Boucher, Mark Lane, and Emily Goyette, Clerk. Florence Morse also attended.

1. Additions to the agenda - none
2. Approve minutes of the previous meeting on 10/05/22 – no changes
3. Public comment - none

**B. 3:05 PM      DISCUSSION OF COSTS AND ACTIVITIES**

1. 2023-2024 Budget Adoption

(The budget for last year was \$22,000 and the Town appropriation was \$20,000.)

a. Doty survey costs: Jon

The cost to survey and map the back side of Doty Cemetery is estimated at \$5,000. This work is necessary to clarify the available plots remaining. Elliott noted that the front half of the cemetery was previously surveyed by Jason Chase.

b. Burial costs and inexpensive corner markers option: Elliott and Jon

Going forward, metal corner markers will be used upon sale of a plot. They are readily obtainable and can be easily found with a metal detector if overgrown. Granite markers are significantly more expensive and take several months to receive. Currently, \$150 is included in the price of a lot to cover corner markers and it was agreed to keep that pricing the same. If the purchaser wants granite markers instead, he/she will be charged the additional amount.

c. Updating burial rules and regulations: Rosie

Jon proposed that he and Rosie form a subcommittee to review the current documents. They will present their recommendations to Elliott for comments and then will be discussed at our next meeting.

d. Vote on budget funds request to present to Selectboard

It was agreed that a new line item covering stone repairs needs to be added to the budget as there are a number of broken stones that need attention. It was also agreed that the line item covering removal of invasive plant species could be removed. The proposed budget for FY 2023-2024 is as follows:

Payroll	\$16,000
Fences & Painting	3,000

Stone Repairs	3,000
New Corner Markers	150
Equipment Maintenance	2,000
Fuel	500
Memberships & Dues	100
Miscellaneous	750
Survey & Mapping at Doty	<u>5,000</u>
Total	\$30,500

Jon moved and Elliott seconded a motion to approve this budget for submittal to the Selectboard. All were favor.

## 2. 2023 Season Preview

### a. Equipment Maintenance

#### 1.) Maintenance for Scag Mower and Kabota: Elliott

Elliott will have the Scag mower readied for the season by Gary Sheridan and the Kubota will go to Champlain Valley Equipment.

#### 2.) Power tools: Tim will personally repair and/or purchase lawn mowers and trimmers as needed. Unrepairable equipment needs to be recycled: Elliott and Tim

A battery-powered grinder for to address the sharp edges of broken stones may be purchased.

### b. Cemeteries Status: what's been done and to do

#### 1.) Small Cemeteries: All had seasonal mowing and trimming. Small trees and debris were cleared. However, Tinkham has a large maple to saw up, and the fence needs some repair work. Also, some painting, propping up stones, and bombing woodchuck holes need to be done. Quaker has woodchuck holes to address. Clark, Willard Cutler, Peck, Gould, and Wheeler mostly require stone propping. Heavy winds this winter may require some debris clearing. Peck needs to have the rotten parts of the posts cut and reinstalled into the ground or purchasing new posts.

#### 2.) Large Cemeteries: East Village had 40 posts installed and 10 more are needed. Additionally, the front fencing needs painting, and there is some tree trimming to do. Cate looks good but may require some fence work and painting in 2022. Cutler may need some tree trimming. Doty looks good.

### c. Sexton Duties: Jon and Rosie

#### 1.) Define assistant sexton duties, propose candidate, and vote

The assistant sexton is the person designated to handle grave openings and plot sales when the sexton is unavailable. Jon will continue as sexton and Elliott will assist. The sign at Doty will be changed to update the primary contact person.

#### 2.) Corner markers and digital maps: Jon Previously discussed above.

- 3.) Plot sales: Rosie  
Rosie was unable to attend the meeting.
- 4.) Update of Rules and Regulations  
Possible new rates for plot sales will be discussed at the next meeting.
- d. Guest log is still in the works. Nick and Tim still plan to start with the smaller cemeteries: White, Gould, Clark, Wheeler, and Cutler Farm
- e. Cemetery crew for 2023-2024  
Tim Lamson, Elliott Morse, Nick Lamson
- f. Committee members for 2023-2024  
All members are willing to continue to serve on the Committee pending appointment by the Selectboard.

**C. 3:55 PM OTHER BUSINESS**

Paul Cate and Jennifer Boyer of the Historical Society were recently able to locate the Gray Cemetery on Tucker Road. With the permission of the property owners, Rebecca and Earl Schrader, the Committee would like to spruce up the area, similar to what was done at the Gould and Cutler Farm cemeteries. The next meeting will be on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at 2:00 PM in the Doty Cemetery.

**D. 4:00 PM ADJOURN**

At 4:58 pm, Elliott moved and Jon seconded a motion to adjourn. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Emily Goyette, Clerk