

Readfield Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2014
(Approved)

Committee Members Present: Grace Keene, Lorraine Wagner, Marianne Perry, Deb Doten, Evelyn Potter, Lydia Adelson, Brenda Lake, Sandra Rourke

Committee Members Excused: Pam Osborn

Select Board Liaison: Sue Reay was unable to attend due to scheduling conflict

Staff: Karen Peterson, Sexton

The meeting began at 1:05 at the Town Office.

Meeting Minutes: Meeting Minutes for July 7, and July 21 were reviewed. One name was spelled incorrectly and will be edited. Motion made by Marianne Perry to accept the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Brenda Lake. There was no further discussion. Motion was approved 8-0.

Review of the Cemetery Budget:

There has been little if any overtime in the Cemeteries this summer.

There was a \$911.00 repair for the mower noted in equipment maintenance.

Lorraine Wagner explained how the Town of Wayne budgets for stone repair. Each year a certain amount of money is budgeted to restore/repair stones in an entire cemetery. All agreed this was an interesting idea to explore.

Deb Doten would like to see the mowing cost spread sheet at our next meeting if possible.

Sandra Rourke asked about the long grass in the cemeteries. Karen Peterson explained that she is on medical leave until the end of October, one employee left a week early, and there is one part time person left who is able to mow. There has been an ad out for several weeks to hire a mower, but there has been no response.

Lorraine Wagner asked if there would be a mowing RFP issued this year. If so, she would like to see the RFP issued earlier than last year to see if there will be more bids. Sandra Rourke also supports issuing a mowing RFP. Deb Doten felt that the process last year was difficult and does not want to spend the staff and committee time that would be involved in making a recommendation to the Select Board. Marianne Perry asked if issuing an RFP was a decision to be made by the Select Board. The decision to issue an RFP belongs to the Select Board. There was no further discussion on this topic and no action taken by the committee.

Sandra Rourke asked about the fence repair for the Readfield Corner Cemetery. Karen Peterson explained that the fence is repaired. The contractor who restored the fence will come to install and straighten the entire fence before snow fall.

Memorial Garden Project

The members thanked Lydia Adelson for clearing shrubs and debris from the Memorial Garden site. The blue stone base is down. Karen Peterson purchased a 7 ft. white flowering crab that was on sale at Strucks. Lorraine Wagner expressed disapproval and disappointment of the color white. Lorraine Wagner left the meeting at 1:40 expressing that she did not expect to be listened to today. Discussion continued. Deb Doten felt that the color was important and agreed that if there was a good quality pink flowering crabtree that we would raise the money to purchase one. Sandra Rourke and Evelyn Potter felt that Lorraine Wagner should have stayed at the meeting to make a motion to change the color. The committee agreed to swap the white crabtree for the pink and/or purchase a pink crabtree in addition depending on the price.

East Readfield Cemetery's Natural Fence Project

Karen Peterson noted that the pump handle is fixed.

Under the current purchasing policy it is required that we get estimates from three companies for plantings of hydrangas and azaleas for the corner by Rt 17 and near the upper mausoleum. Members agreed that it would great to start on these plantings this fall.

Sandra Rourke was excused from the meeting at 2:10.

Evelyn Potter said that the Fifield Fund may be a possibility for this project.

Discussion on Complaints to the Select Board:

The complaint made by Mr. Reay of a former fence post left in the ground at the East Readfield Cemetery. Select Person Pomerleau called the Town Manager and Sexton to the cemetery to have this piece of wood removed as it was a safety hazard. The Town Manager kicked it loose and it was removed. The committee agreed to act quickly to investigate complaints in the future.

A second complaint was brought up by Mr. Reay. He wanted to know when there be gravel for a road at the East Readfield Cemetery instead of having the mowers move rocks. Sue Reay, Chair, explained to him that this project was part of the 2015 CIP Budget. Karen Peterson will look into this as she does not think this road is in the CIP Budget.

Schedule of Meetings:

Grace Keene shared that the Budget Committee would like to hold a joint meeting with the Cemetery Committee on September 27th at 9:00 am.

To accommodate members of the committee who have commitments on certain days of the week, it was agreed that meetings would be held Mondays from 10:00 until 11:30 am. The next meeting is October 20,2014 at the Town Office.

Meeting ended at 2:35.

