

# Waterford Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 06, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

Davies Library

In Attendance: Deb Benoit, Mark Harpin, Ahsley Whitehill, and Jen D'Agostino.

Jen D'Agostino called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM.

## Modifications to Agenda

- No modifications were made.

## Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Deb Benoit motioned to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2024 meeting. Ashley Whitehill seconded the motion. Motion passed by acclamation of members present.

## Budget (Discussion)

- Deb Benoit found records of what previous sextons were paid. In 2023, there was a budget of \$2,630, but none was spent. 2022 had no money budgeted. 2021 spent \$8,000. 2020 budgeted \$12,500 and spent \$4,000. They will need to determine if it will be paid hourly. Deb reminded the group they need to consider needs vs wants considering taxes went up and the town just had to take out a \$1 mill credit for flood repair. They all agreed a sexton is a need.
- Flag placement could also be an expense for the sexton position, but that may be done on a volunteer basis to save on cost.
- Mark and Deb will figure out how much time they spend doing sexton duties and continue the discussion at the next meeting.
- Ashley Whitehill is meeting with Angela from the Legion and will see if the town needs to buy some.
- Deb and Ashley will go to Riverside Cemetery with the list of veterans to discuss with Angela. They will also ask about grave markers.
- Ashley spoke with Michael from NRM Paving & Landscaping regarding fencing. He will need a basic drawing of the perimeter with measurements of the proposed fence and the gate opening. He can use any material for the fence. He uses black aluminum a lot, which is expensive but doesn't require much maintenance. He suggested leaving at least four feet between the outside of the fence and the wood line so you can mow around it. They will prioritize fencing active cemeteries first.
- Trees shouldn't need to be cut for a few years once Dvae is done with Lower Waterford Cemetery, so that does not need to be included in the budget.

- Budget topics for the next meeting- sexton, flags, surveying Riverside.

#### Sexton (Action/Discussion)

- Deb Benoit and Mark Harpin will consider taking the roles. Deb will check with VLCT to ensure there's no conflict of interest as the Town Clerk.

#### 5- Year Plan (Discussion)

- Fencing and a cycle of cleaning stones will be priorities.
- The group discussed having Jesse mow where Dave cut down trees to ensure they don't grow back. They want to increase to six mows per season. Jesse is on a 3-year contract cycle, so the expense will be added. Deb will reach out to him to get an estimate of the extra cost and have it ready for the September Selectboard meeting.
- Mapping is another topic that will be included in the five-year plan. They considered focusing on one cemetery for two to three meetings each. The group looked through some maps to discuss. Any cemetery deeds from 2016 and after Deb should be able to be searched for on the computer. She pulled out a drawer with old cemetery deeds, but it's unclear how updated they are. They want to walk each cemetery because there are some graves the map says are open that are full. She isn't selling any lots in Lower Waterford because it is so uncertain which are already full. They plan to do more research over the winter.
- Deb wants to take pictures of the stones to make sure there is a record so people can know what they say in 50-100 years when they are no longer legible.
- The group will have a working meeting on Friday, August 16 at 11am to go to Riverside and Lower Waterford cemeteries. They will check which lots are empty and research to see if they have been sold and look for pins used as grave markers.

#### Map Comparison (Discussion)

- The group compared the differences between a few maps. They began trying to decide how to go about compiling and correcting them.

#### Items for Selectboard (Discussion)

- No Items for Selectboard

#### Agenda Items for Next Meeting Thursday, September 4 at 6:30

- 5-Year Plan (Discussion)
- Budget (Discussion)
- Sexton (Discussion)

## Adjourn

- Deb Benoit motioned to adjourn. Mark Harpin seconded the motion. Motioned passed by acclamation of members present. Meeting adjourned at 6:47pm

DRAFT