

ACTON CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

22 FEB 2018

The Acton Cemetery Committee meeting was held at the Acton Town Hall at 5PM. Committee members present: Lois Michaud, Rollin Waterhouse, Steve Parello, and Jay Carter. Tracey Levasseur was out sick. There were no members of the public present.

There was a small break at the beginning of the meeting, so the heater in the room could be fixed.

Lois was able to purchase batteries and a charger for the GPS. She will get a SIM card soon.

It was decided that we should take photos of each veteran's flag holder, so we know what exactly is at each grave and what shape it is in. Steve will come up with a list of 10 holders to be purchased after the next meeting.

There is a possibility that the initial town finance meeting will be rescheduled to March 24, instead of March 17. Lois will confirm and let everyone know.

The annual town meeting will be in June, and permission must be granted for the three Shapleigh residents on the cemetery committee to speak, as they are not Acton voters.

For any upcoming VA headstone applications, it must be noted that previous attempts to get headstones did not accept all old records, while some others were accepted. It seems to be up in the air as to what the VA will allow. It is recommended that everything we have in regards to the vet in question be sent, and to enlist the help of some local DAR ladies.

A lot of discussion was had in regards to the planned roadwork on the HeboHybo Rd that goes by the Maple Grove Cemetery. Lois and Rollin went to the Forest/Conservation Committee meeting that was held on Feb 20. The town would like to create a nature trail on the road that will allow foot traffic and motorized recreational vehicles but not cars or trucks. Logging and harvesting may occur further down the road and wetlands will restrict usage as well. A final determination still needs to be done on what kind of traffic will be allowed. Currently there is some disagreement on the status of the road. York County discontinued the road in 1936, but in the 1970s or 80s, a town article closed the road. More legal work will have to be done to determine if the road is closed or discontinued. The town retains an easement down the road, and an easement is supposed to be 3 rods in length (49.5 feet). The width of the road is not that wide, and the Cemetery owns up to the middle of the road in their stretch of it. The concern from the Cemetery Association is that more damage may occur when vehicles go down the road. Damage has already happened to headstones that are near the entrance to the road. Both hosting committees at the meeting had no answers for the concerns. Most Association members won't be back until the Spring, and more meetings will have to be held before all questions and concerns are answered.

Jay has started to create the website and still needs to talk with Jen Roux to find out limitations of the website. He will set up an appointment with her to go over details.

The Newfield Murders presentation will be held at the Acton-Shapleigh Historical Society on Saturday May 5 at 1 PM. All are welcome. Acton resident Elsie Horn was one of those murdered in 1900.

If we decide to publish the cemetery listing on the website, we will scrub the list and not include any burials that have occurred within the last 25 years. This will keep the committee out of hot water with the state. At the 26th year mark, we will be able to add the name to the list.

Rollin plans on filing notice with the town in mid-March (80 days prior to the election) to run for town selectman. If he wins, he will have to resign for all other town positions that he currently holds.

All members present voiced interest in having the committee join the Maine Old Cemetery Association (MOCA). Steve thought he had the prices for membership in the latest newsletter, but he was unable to find it. He will research the cost and report back to the committee.

The next meeting will be held at Acton Town Hall on 29 March 2018 at 5 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.