

ACTON CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

25 JAN 2018

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

Tracey will finalize the mission statement and send it out to everyone.

500 business cards were purchased privately by Rollin, and everyone grabbed a handful. There is space on them for each member to put on their contact information. Rollin does not wish to be reimbursed.

We need to compile a list of each veteran and what flag holder is marking the grave. If the holder is incorrect for what war or branch of service that they served in, then we should replace them. Some holders will need to be fixed or otherwise maintained. Ideally we would like this list finished before Memorial Day.

The FY 2019 budget has been approved by the committee for \$2800, and this will be given to the town clerk as a potential ordinance article by Feb 2 2018. Final ordinances are due by March 2 2018 and presentation before the BOS and Warrant & Finance Committee on March 17 2018.

Lois will gather paperwork and information from Marc Hurd, so we can start the VA headstone process. Other paperwork can possibly be gathered by the DAR, the deeds office and Shapleigh town hall.

Acton is looking to expand the HeboHybo Road down to Lebanon. This is the road that is on the eastern boundary of Maple Grove Cemetery. The cemetery owns half of the road and there is concern that expansion and use of the road will cause damage to the cemetery and nearby headstones. It is possible that members of MOCA can come down and speak to the town in regards to similar situations that have been dealt with in other parts of the state. One possible solution to damage is to put up a wood panel fence along the wall.

Steve visited Nancy Ruma's house on Sam Page Rd in December and discovered that the cemetery on her property is the Samuel Page Cemetery. The cemetery is small with some decent stones, but the cemetery will need to be cleaned up. As far as we know now, there are no veterans buried there.

Jen Roux has said that she can create a website for the committee on the town website. Jay has volunteered to be webmaster, and Lois will follow up with Jen to help get the page going. Steve will ask Ron Rivard in Shapleigh about the state statute that prohibits the listing of graves on the town website for those who have died in the last 25 years.

Steve is in the process of moving from Shapleigh and has offered his resignation, effective 1 Feb 2018. Upon further discussion with committee members and members of ASHS, he has postponed that date until later, most likely when the move will be imminent. He will scale back activities though and is looking for a replacement for secretary.

Rollin brought up his intention to run for Acton Selectman, and if he is elected, he will resign his committee position effective 30 June 2018.

The search for volunteers will continue, with some focus on HS students who need community service hours, DAR, Scouts, 4-H and ASHS. The latter always has several clean up days scheduled throughout the year. They bring a large crew in from the surrounding communities and the results that can be achieved in a 3-hour block on a Saturday morning are outstanding.

ASHS will host a presentation in May about the murder of 4 people in Newfield in June 1910. One of the murder victims was Elsie Horne, a 75 year old widow from Acton, who was the Newfield home owner's housekeeper. She is buried in the Horne Cemetery on Mann Rd in North Acton.

The next meeting will be held at Acton Town Hall on 22 Feb 2018 at 5 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.