

## ACTON CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

25 October 2018

The Acton Cemetery Committee meeting was held at the Acton Town Hall at 5:15 PM. Committee members present: Lois Michaud, Rollin Waterhouse, Steve Parello, Jay Carter and Tracey Levasseur. There were no members of the public present.

There has been no word from Town Hall on the latest flag holder order.

An email address has been created and listed on the website for any inquiries. When someone uses the address, the email will go to all members. Minutes from previous meetings are posted on the website, as well as before and after photos from the two cleanups that were done this year. The 2017 Watson ceremony video is posted as well. The website has limited space, so not everything is able to be published.

Jay did buy a new stump grinder and he was able to use it at the Brackett cleanup. It is a welcome addition to the committee's tools. Jay will be building a trailer to haul tools and this should be ready by the Spring.

Additional flagging was done at Maple Grove, to replace many flags that were not in good shape. One headstone was righted by Steve earlier in the summer, but several more were unable to be done before the snow started to fall.

Tracey and Steve were able to take a hike down Town Farm Rd to see the logging effects and try to find the rumored Town Farm Cemetery. The area affected by the logging is still a distance away from the Town Farm and should not come close. The road to the logging area is now drivable but cars may have a tougher time than trucks due to the bumpiness of the road. No cemetery was found at the site, but more building foundations were discovered. It would be a good idea to use the GPS and log in the coordinates of the foundation corners to get a picture of how it was laid out. A couple of wells and the foundations for the barn, house and a few smaller buildings were found.

The October 13 cleanup at the Simeon Brackett Cemetery was a huge success, even with the cold and rain. Seven people between ASHS and ACC were on hand and they worked for 5 hours instead of the usual 3 hours. The cemetery was completely cleared out, many more field stones were discovered and the marble headstone for Simeon Brackett was placed back upright. It even appears that there may be more stones outside of the fence, but more research will have to be done at a later date.

While at the cleanup, Dick Neal, the ASHS President suggested that ASHS donate a new sign for the cemetery. Further discussion will be had with ASHS, but maybe the cemeteries that ASHS does cleanups on can have a new sign donated by them, and the remainder of the cemeteries can have signs bought by the committee. Steve said that he would come up with a list of what cemeteries have been cleaned by ASHS since 2014.

Three weeks after the cleanup, Dave, one of the property owners made a complaint about the work that had been done. The other property owner, Christine, had given permission and instructions on access to the cemetery and what was to be done with the brush and cuttings. Those instructions were

followed and Steve was in constant contact with her before, during and after the cleanup. Christine had been in contact with Dave and let him know what was going on. Much communication between Steve and Lois, and Dave and Christine and Town Hall ensued after the complaint was made and as for now, no one will be doing any further work at the Simeon Brackett Cemetery until things have been figured out. It is important to note that there is at least one veteran buried there, and that cemetery must be maintained by someone per state law.

Tracey and Jay will be renewing their board membership after the October meeting.

A meeting for the Maple Grove Association was held in early October and they discussed topics to go over at the summer 2019 meeting.

Jen contacted Steve in regards to his request to see if anyone in need in town needed some free firewood. He delivered 2 truckloads of long logs that came from the Sanborn-Nason Cemetery. These were cut down last year and took up a lot of space immediately behind the cemetery. Any further trees or logs that are taken down at nay cemetery can be donated as well, if the property owner is okay with it.

Jay is looking to gather up any scrap aluminum so that he can cast new flag holders.

It was agreed that the meeting time should be changed from 5 PM to 5:30 PM, to allow Jay time to get from work. The videographer Victoria said that she was okay with that. Confirmation with Jen must be gotten though, to ensure that no other meetings will be affected.

The next meeting will be held at Acton Town Hall on 29 November October 2018 at 5:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00PM.