

ACTON CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

28 MARCH 2018

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

Before the meeting started, all members except Tracey went outside to look at the town hall green, where there are several memorials to Acton residents who have served in several different wars. The grounds were looking a little rough, and it was decided that the committee would figure out a day to gather and clean it up. It was brought up that someone is supposed to take care of the green, but that it has been neglected for a couple of years. Also noted were the flag holders at each memorial. All flag holders were US Veteran ones, except for the 2 at the WWII memorial. Those are from the American Legion. It was decided that the committee should purchase new flag holders representing the Civil War, Korea and Viet Nam. The American Legion ones are cemented in and cannot be swapped out. Newer flags were exchanged also, as the original ones were not in good shape.

It was decided that in the next couple of weeks, we should purchase additional flags and replacement flag holders. Steve came up with a list of 10 holders that can be replaced. The ones from the town green were added, in addition to fire fighter holders and flags.

Lois and Rollin attended the budget meeting at town hall on 24 March, and both spoke. There were a few questions, but no issues or objections to our request for \$2800 for FY 2019. The town warrant meeting is on 16 June.

Like last year, it is expected that there will be a spending freeze during the last couple of weeks in June. Any needed purchases should be made before that.

In regards to the Maple Grove road expansion, the easement that exists is still not specific; ie what the width is and what kind of traffic will be allowed. There seems to be a lot of work that needs to be done and issues resolved before it is settled. The road has been used recently for logging. This project will most likely take a very long time (a few years) before it is finally hashed out.

On a similar note, word has come out that the Town Farm Rd may be logged in the future. There are concerns with this as there are several cemeteries on this road, including the 2 Gilman brothers cemeteries at the Milton Mills Rd end, and the pauper cemetery which is somewhere in the middle. We must do all we can to find the missing cemetery and ensure that no damage is done to any of them.

Tracey is getting content to add to the committee website. There are questions about how much space/memory we will have so that we can add photos. Some ideas are to have a revolving album of cemeteries, and before and after photos of some of the project cemeteries. Jay can create YouTube videos, and attach the hyperlink on the website. Jay will get a single town email address and have it all go to each individual member. Steve will write up a history of the cemetery committee. Jay expects the initial website launch before the next meeting.

At the June meeting, Jay and Tracey can sign on for another term as committee members. They initially signed up for 1 year, and it is unknown how long they will sign up for on the second round. Rollin may be a selectman by the end of June and will be unable to continue in his role as committee member. Lois and Steve both signed up for 2 year terms, but Steve is still planning on resigning as he still plans on leaving the area. He is willing to help out until move day, but cannot commit to his duties as committee co-chair.

It was decided that ground cover will be purchased for the Watson Cemetery. It needs to be able to grow in the shade. Vinca is the kind of cover that grows best in that area. Tracey and Steve will try and meet at the cemetery to get a good measurement and look at any other factors, including what the cost will be.

Jay is working on getting a fully enclosed, 10' trailer that is 6' high. It has double doors and can be used to haul and store committee tools. He will get some pictures and a price. He will also look into the cost of a stump grinder.

The Newfield Murders presentation put on by ASHS will be at either the Mousam Lake Pavilion (old Grange Hall) or at the ASHS headquarters on Rt 109 in Shapleigh.

The committee decided to sign up for a 5 year membership with the Maine Old Cemetery Association for a cost of \$30. There are many benefits to membership, including access to the York County Cemetery listings, a document of over 3500 pages. MOCA is hosting their Spring Program Day and Member Meeting on May 19 at 8:30 AM at the Waterboro Grange. Registration cost is \$3.00.

It was determined that when we start logging in GPS locations for each cemetery, the waypoint will be the entrance to the cemetery.

With regards to the monthly meetings that will take place in the summer, it was discussed that we only meet once during the summer. It is an extremely busy time for all and it may be difficult for everyone to gather once a month. If the meeting dates will be adjusted, it will be determined at the May or June meeting.

The next meeting will be held at Acton Town Hall on 26 April 2018 at 5 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.