

**Cemetery Trustees Meeting**  
**Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023**  
**5:00 PM**  
**Highland Cemetery & Town Office**

Minutes

Present: Dina Cutting, Laurie Wadsworth & Michael Hinsley, Trustees; Jay Cary, citizen & former Trustee

1. Highland Cemetery:

- *progress made* - Matt Thebodo has worked this summer cutting back invasive plants and shrubs, and trimming the trees; Trustees approved trimming the bottoms of the pines along the east and north borders. Roof of shed has been replaced. We are very grateful for this work.
- *Memorial Garden* - Krista Meyerhoff worked again this summer and has cleaned up the center flower garden and kept the bushes along the fencing in order. The gate still needs repair.
- *Needs* - A few veterans' graves here need flag holders; Dina has ordered some, which will be installed this fall in time for Veterans' Day. A few graves have gone in without cornerstones; Trustees approved up to \$1500 from this year's funds for these as well as a flat marker for an indigent Lyme citizen. Dina will order these from Vt. Wholesale (formerly called Fairlee Monument). Matt Thebodo and Kaleb O'Keefe will be installing the corner stones as Vt Wholesale no longer provides this service.

2. Stone in Beal for Cate and Prince (Jay Cary joined us for this discussion.)

- Laurie and Jay had visited Vermont Wholesale in Fairlee to present our need. We left with 2 proposals; one for a standing stone, one for a flat stone.
- Approved design of standing stone from Vermont Wholesale in "Barre Gray" gray granite for \$2600, lettered front and back and placed in cemetery. (We had approved up to \$5k in February.) Dina will order this and send the initial sketch to Trustees for final approval.
- Discussion of installation - we'll work it out with the dealer when the time comes (probably late spring).

4. Sexton

- The search is on hold while we hope for someone who has all the right qualifications. Meanwhile, Dina has been filling in at burials.

3. Budget

- Concern expressed that one-third of the income from the trust fund goes to Bar Harbor; request that Trustees of the Trust Funds move to another provider.
- Decided to increase funding request for materials.
- Perpetual Care expenses for basic upkeep at all 5 cemeteries will increase. These expenditures are an in and an out. Revenue comes from the Trustees of the Trust fund these do not have to be approved by Town Meeting. Upcoming work: Fencing at Old Cemetery - will need to replace rails in 69 sections, with 2 rails/section, for approx. \$5k. This should be done over the next 2-3 years, with the first section slated for 2024. Michael Hinsley will oversee this.

Adjourned 6:20 PM. Next meeting: Oct. 24 in Town Office.

Respectfully submitted.

Laurie Wadsworth, secretary