



Acton Cemetery Committee

Meeting

December 2, 2024

Present: Amy Merrow (Chair), Wayne Michaud (Co-chair), Steve Parello, Suzanne Doyle, Gerald Carter, Tracey Levasseur, Jon Denekamp (Select Board Liaison)

Meeting called to order at 6:01pm in the Acton Town Hall.

- The June 17 minutes were accepted as published.
- Steve welcomed new members Amy Merrow and Wayne Michaud, both have worked in cemetery clean-up. Also present is Jon Denekamp our new Select Board liaison.
- Both Steve and Suzanne are stepping down from Chair and Co-chair positions. Committee nominated and voted unanimously for Amy to be new Chair and Wayne as Co-chair. Steve to coordinate with Amy the various Chair tasks.
- Steve reported Remick cemetery almost complete. Remick sign purchased by Acton-Shapleigh Historical Society will be going up hopefully before winter.
- Steve quickly reviewed the cemetery clean-ups this year: Goose Pond Road, Acton Corner (after April storm caused much damage and debris), and Goodwin on Rt. 109.
- Gilman cemetery was cleaned this year by descendants of the family who travel from Ellsworth.
- Steve noted that a third of the cemeteries are not identified on the Acton interactive map on the town website. Jennifer Roux gave a paper copy of the town tax maps to Steve for the committee to identify all cemeteries on the maps. Select Board liaison Jon Denekamp said if the project is complete by the annual meeting in April the company that updates the online maps can add the missing maps without added cost. Jay offered to update the paper copies with help from his friend Blair.
- The committee currently has four money accounts: a Non-Veteran basic upkeep account, a Veteran upkeep account, a Miscellaneous Expense Rollover account and a Perpetual Fund account. Steve gave a breakdown of each account and the balances therein. Consensus is there should be one account and all requested funds should roll over to the next fiscal year. The perpetual account should only be used for cemeteries covered by those funds, the list of which we should have.
- Town deadline for coming fiscal year is December 20. After discussion it was agreed to ask for \$10,000 again. There's a need for more D2 cleaner and flags and Jay recommended purchasing more equipment such as chainsaw and weedwhackers and keeping them all in one small trailer that can be easily hauled to work sites.

- Committee members need to do a “field trip” to visit cemeteries and list those that need most attention for next year’s cleaning/repairs. A tally of what stones are too far gone to be repaired will help in placing another preorder from the New Hampshire stone mason.
- The committee page on Acton’s website needs updating. To do this Jennifer needs to give the webmaster (Dan Krampetz) permission to train Tracey on the new web format. Steve will talk to Jennifer about expediting this so the page can be updated with new photos and members.
- Volunteer requests. Steve handed copies of a volunteer request from Waterboro Cemetery Committee published in last week’s *Reporter*. Besides using social media, a similar published request may help. Jon suggested writing a blurb up and giving to the webmaster to add to Acton’s weekly e-newsletter.
- Next meeting. The committee reviewed the January Select Board meeting schedule. It would make sense to meet the Monday before one of the Board meetings in which they’ll be reviewing committee fund requests. It was agreed that first choice would be January 27, but Amy will contact Jennifer Roux to see which Monday she thinks we should meet before next Select Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:53pm. Next meeting will TBA.

Submitted by

Tracey Levasseur

ACC Secretary