

* FINAL *

RIDGEFIELD GRAVEYARD RESTORATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

MAPLESHADE CEMETERY

PRESENT: Sara Champion, George Hancock, Susan Law, Jeff Lundberg, Tom McManus, Cathy Potel, Nancy Selander, Sarah Slavin and Joel Third.

EXCUSED: Grace Clewell.

A welcome was extended to Cathy Potel, our newest member.

Chair Jeff Lundberg called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

MINUTES: The Minutes from May 17, 2021 were approved as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Plot sales in Mapleshade were \$18K which is almost \$10K above last year. The recent extensive tree work was billed at \$35K partially paid for by a Town one time grant of \$25K. More tree removal work is scheduled for October. The entrance off of 116 has been widened to accommodate the crane machinery.

Tom again reiterated that he needs to be notified when a sale is completed and money sent to the Town.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Report on Cemeteries – Branchville Cemetery - Dead or dying ash trees about the cemetery. That property has recently been sold and Tom has been trying to obtain contact information to initiate action for their removal. Ridgebury Cemetery – The grassy area in the far back western edge has been extended. Pocket Cemeteries – Generally in decent shape. Contact with neighbors is always helpful.
2. Tree Planting – Tom will contact Steve Lavatori, Tree Warden to get information on wholesale pricing for Fall planting. Species of interest are Red Bud and Sour Wood. Both are beautiful trees with good potential in this setting. The group (Tom, Sarah, Cathy and George) will need to meet with Sexton Bill Bunkoci with regards to possible planting sites. Cathy suggested contacting the Father's Club for possible extra manpower. (Also recommended for Clean-up days).
3. Re-Burial of soldier's remains. Jeff, Nancy and Sue met with Rudy Marconi to begin planning. Nancy will contact Tracy Seem of the Ridgefield Historical Society to coordinate activities for the planned May 1, 2022 event. Bill Bunkoci will contact Mark Ferrindino, sexton at St. Mary Cemetery for assistance in investigating feasibility of a possible site. Two areas in Olde Town Cemetery have been identified as meeting the needs identified. Dan Jowdy of Kane – Jowdy Funeral Home has offered to store the remains until the burial and to donate the four boxes and grave liners. The possibility of having a self guided tour of other Revolutionary Soldier's graves was proposed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. CONNTOURS Parking – Nancy proposed the open area near the southern edge of Mapleshade Cemetery as the safest. Agreement was voiced.
2. The idea of repeating the Committee's hosting a reception for Town officials, community members, neighbors of the pocket cemeteries, etc. was raised. Joel suggested using space at the Keeler Museum. It was decided that a possible late May or June date might be best due to Covid.
3. The next meeting will be held on November 15, 2021 5 PM at the Scott House.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM

Susan Law, Recorder