

DRAFT

RIDGEFIELD GRAVEYARD RESTORATION COMMITTEE

JANUARY 24, 2022

RIDGEFIELD TOWN HALL LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM

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

Chair Jeff Lundberg called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 15, 2021: Accepted as written.

TREASURER REPORT: Plot sales in Mapleshade Cemetery are slower than last year. As of December 31, 2021, bank balances are as follows: Mapleshade account - \$37,842 Town account - \$6,285 Committee account - \$33,403.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Report on cemeteries: Ridgebury Cemetery: The garbage receptacle is being used keeping the area much tidier. Tom Kane, sexton, has mentioned confusion re the possibility of missing deeds from distant sales. Nancy Selander had turned over all known records to him upon hiring. Tom McManus will keep us informed.
2. Some feel the location of the recently planted sourwood tree is too close to an existing tombstone. After much discussion it was decided to remove the tree.
3. Town plans for the re-burial of the four skeletons on May 1, 2022 are progressing. The Committee has chosen the site in Olde Town Cemetery.
4. The approved increase in gravesites prices will be forwarded to The Kane – Jowdy Funeral Home in town.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. George Hancock has designed a spreadsheet listing the Town owned cemeteries which will be very helpful. Bits of missing information will be added. Copies of this and the latest Rules and Regulations will be distributed to all members.
2. George also spoke about the Town Facebook Group Page. A nicely written explanation of the availability of gravesites for sale was read. George will keep us informed.
3. The need to rewrite the deed form was discussed. Sara Champion passed around the March 2019 version which the Town Attorney approved. Jeff will discuss this with the Town Clerk.
4. The search for a new Committee Member and a new Chair will be held as Jeff Lundberg will be resigning in the Spring. Vice Chair Nancy Selander expresses a willingness to serve as Chairperson.

5. The 2022 Meeting dates will be on our usual schedule: January 24, March 21, May 16, September 19, and November 21.
6. 4 members of the Committee have agreed to march in the 2022 Memorial Day Parade.
7. The Thrift Shop grant application is due at the end of the month. Susan Law will submit a request for \$5,000 to be used for tombstone restoration supplies and dying/damaged tree removal costs.
8. Spring Clean-up is scheduled for April 9th. Nancy Selander will contact Bill Buncoki re the skeletons burial event on May 1st.
9. A meeting has been scheduled by Chair Lundberg with the Selectmen regarding the future of this Committee and its mission and responsibilities. After much discussion the Committee felt we need to postpone that meeting with the Selectmen and schedule one on February 24 for the Committee to better organize our position and prepare a concise plan as to how to manage 3 active cemeteries.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM

Susan Law, Recorder