

CHEBEAGUE ISLAND CEMETERY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: October 29, 2019

ATTENDANCE: Members: Beth Wiles, Denise Hamilton, Kendra McKinnon; also, Ann Thaxter and Gloria Brown.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Kendra and seconded by Denise to approve the minutes of September 24. The vote was 3-0.

FINANCIAL WORKSHEET REVIEW: On the expense detail report, two items under 3140-membership dues need to be moved to 5240-Training. These two items were for Ann and Gloria to attend the Maine Cemetery Association annual meeting and workshop on October 15. Gloria will bring this to Marjorie's attention.

UPDATE REGARDING BOUNDARY SOLUTIONS WORK: Beth reported that Dave Bouffard will be on the island on Monday, November 4. Beth will pick him up from the return of the 8am boat and meet with Ann and Denise at the cemetery. They will adjourn to the Parish House where others may join in the meeting with Dave. We hope to straighten up some plot lines, configure the cremation garden and make some decisions about plantings to screen the back boundary of the cemetery where it abuts the transfer station.

CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Ann reported on the Maine Cemetery Association's annual meeting and workshop she and Gloria attended on October 15.

- Green cemeteries were a hot topic at the workshop; some require wooden caskets, others only a shroud, some allow flat stones, some mow only once a year
- Kyle Rosenberg, City of Bath Arborist, gave a well-illustrated presentation about the pests that invade Maine cemeteries.
- Ron Romano, a local author and cemetery guide, gave an entertaining and informative presentation about "billboard" monuments.
- The membership voted to raise the association's annual dues to \$50.

COMPUTER SOFTWARE PROGRAMS UPDATES: Surprisingly, there were no computer software vendors present at the MCA meeting. Gloria and Ann did talk with other attendees. Bob Storey of Cumberland recommends Pontem Cemetery Management Software, but calls it the "Cadillac" of software programs. Debbie Glover of North Yarmouth also uses Pontem (a smaller version) and loves it. Jean Libby of New Gloucester uses and recommends the

Crypt Keeper program. Many small cemeteries do not keep computer records. Further research indicates that most cemetery software companies, including PlotBox and Crypt Keeper, have moved, or are in the process of moving their software to the cloud for security reasons. (Evidently it's easier to hack desktop programs than programs in the cloud.) Gloria expressed her opinion that cloud computing is not a good answer for Chebeague until our internet service is more stable.

SHOULD WE SEEK ADDITIONAL MEMBERS: We currently have five members, but our ordinance allows seven. The consensus of those present was that five members are enough; we seldom lack a quorum to conduct business.

PLANS FOR SPRING FIELD TRIP TO EASTERN CEMETERY ASSOC.: All were in agreement that a visit to Eastern Cemetery in Portland would be a good experience for us.

BUDGET FIGURES FOR 2020: Areas to think about in preparation for budget season include trees to be cut down, phase 2 of boundary survey and any stone restoration.

NEXT MEETING: There was discussion about reducing the frequency of meetings of the committee. The consensus of the committee was that we do not need to meet every month. We are not planning to meet in November or December. The town's website page will state that the committee meets "as needed" and direct the public to consult the town's online calendar. The next planned meeting will be on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 5:30 PM at the Parish House; agenda items to include budget proposal for FY2021.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM