Cemetery Trustee Minutes 3/15/22

Meeting began at 3:15 PM in the meeting room of the Town Hall. Members present were Bill Keyser, Jim Reed and Beth Frost.

The minutes from 2/9/22 were read over. Jim made a motion to accept and Bill seconded. Minutes approved.

We had some discussion about "green burials" (Bill had read an article in the newspaper a few weeks ago that some people are trying to instigate these.) We all agreed that we are not for them. State guidelines should be followed. We will talk more about this at a future meeting and write up our policy.

Bill spoke with Sandra Graves telling her that we, the trustees, decided that she will not be allowed to install a family plaque in the small cemetery on Taunton Hill. Our reason is that the cemetery is old and no longer used and no new plaques etc should be put there. Her family members are NOT buried there. She asked Bill if she could come to a meeting to discuss with us. We agreed that there is no need for her to come as we are firm in our decision. If we made an exception for her, we would open ourselves up for others who might want to do the same. Bill will let her know.

The Selectmen added \$17,500 to our budget for 2022 so that we can now hire our own mowing and maintenance person. Therefore, we need to get busy and find a person to do this. Bill had asked Ethan Barton to give us an estimate for trimming the hedge at Proctor Cemetery and also for mowing. The estimate was very high at \$50 per hr labor...more than our budget allows. So we decided to put an ad in the Kearsarge Shopper and also in the Andover Beacon asking for bids for this job. Bill will write up the ad and give it to Beth to submit to both publications asap. We need to make a list of the cemeteries and their needs. Jim said that the two big cemeteries (Proctor and Lakeside) need to be done regularly every two weeks. A person could do one one week and the other the next etc. The couple small cemeteries near the road need to look good. Others don't need as much attention; for example, the ones in the hot sun won't need as much as the grass dries up.

Bill announced that the flags for Memorial Day have come in.

Bill is going to order the 18 sets of corner stones that we need to install (these are for the older lots that the town is responsible for.)

We also discussed briefly getting a water supply at Lakeview Cemetery. Jim will talk to Tony French to see what he thinks will work.

Meeting adjourned at 4 PM. Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth E Frost, Sec'y