

CEMETERY COMMISSION
Tuesday – September 18th, 2018
Old Village Office - 6:00pm
Draft

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm with the following members present: Forrest Hicks, Devon Carrier, Al Scaia, Neal Houston and Priscilla Margola. Also present were Tom Maroni, Sexton and Joel Hicks, Assistant Sexton.

There were no additions to the Agenda. Forrest made a Motion to approve, Priscilla seconded, Agenda approved!

The minutes of August 28th were next reviewed. Devon made a Motion to approve, Neal seconded, Minutes of August 28 approved!

The minutes of the On-site visit on September 5th to the Heartwellville Cemetery were read. A correction should be noted that Al Scaia was present. Also the mention of the “74 open spaces that were still available are at the South Hill Readsboro Cemetery”, not at Heartwellville! Tom and Joel showed the members the 8 stones they have started work on. Joel also cut some brush. The lady at the Coach Inn said she would welcome any wood cut. So noted. Forrest suggested that we not remove the gate toward Rte. 8, as that opening is needed to work on that section of the cemetery. Material is placed there for work being done on the stones.

Next discussed was the current budget. Our Fiscal year begins July 1st to June 30th, 2019. We have approximately \$1,300.00 left from our budget which ended on June 30th 2018 which will pay for the remaining grass maintenance until our four cemeteries close on October 1st, 2018. Tom is still owed \$390.00 for work done in the creating of the list of all the stones at the South Hill Readsboro Cemetery.

The General budget of \$14,000 covers the contract for the mowing which has been \$8400.00 and other projects needed to be done such as loam being screened and moved to the appropriate cemetery. The Capital budget has been at \$15,000 with \$5,000 set aside for the gates at the Village Cemetery, 2019 will be the third year this amount has been asked for. \$10,000 is for gravestone repair. We intend to ask for \$2,000 more bringing the Capital budget request to \$17,000. This increased amount is for documentation of all the stones, in all four cemeteries.

The new section which will be created at the Village Cemetery will need a road planned for access to the new area. Any material which is described as fill may be used to try to level out the area, in addition to cutting brush and trees.

Tom has made a listing of all the stones at the South Hill Readsboro Cemetery, row by row, on a master sheet and on index cards in a box. A copy of this sheet will be placed in the Town Office. Tom will retain the Master sheet and the box. Forrest said that when people come in to ask about researching their families, Amber goes to the Deed book. But there are a lot of missing deeds, as early burials did not have them, if the person was placed into an existing family lot. Similar types of documentation need to be created and placed in the Deed book, a very large undertaking that Amber does not have time to create at this time. With the request for additional monies in the Capital budget will help to do the necessary work to bring all the cemeteries to the present with proper documentation that will show exactly where and in what cemetery a loved one is at.

Joel was asked with the number of stones to be cleaned, repaired and set on a new foundation, about how long will it take. He replied that there is at least another 3-4 years left at Heartwellville. The work commences on July of each year with Tom and Joel and of course this all depends on the weather co-operating.

Forrest stated that we must finalize our budget requests by October so we must all think very seriously about the numbers that we will need.

Again we are most fortunate to have Tom and Joel and all the fine work they have done for the Town of Readsboro.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm with a Motion by Al and seconded by Devon. Our next meeting will be October 16th, 2018.

Priscilla Margola