

Town of Orford  
Cemetery Commission  
Meeting Minutes April 3, 2021  
Niles Room

Members Present: Paul Messer, Benda Smith, Linda Pease, Fred Kidder  
Others Present: David Smith, Kurt Gendron, Lucile Palifka

Call Meeting to Order

9:30 AM

Approve Minutes: Motion made by Brenda Smith, seconded by Linda Pease to accept minutes of 11/07/20. Motion Approved.

Reports

Kurt Gendron spoke at today's meeting regarding several issues:

- 1) Kurt requested that gravesites should be 6 feet deep, not the 4 feet deep that has been dug at the Orford Cemeteries in the past. To confirm the 6-foot depth, David Smith will call two local funeral homes that we use, Hale and Ricker, to ask if they use straps long enough to lower caskets to 6 feet and will report to Commission his findings.
- 2) Portable Potties. Kurt asked the commission to investigate the cost of portable potties, putting one at West Cemetery. He pointed out that Parks and Playgrounds rents one at Indian Pond. Commission will contact JJ Hebb for cost. Also, one is used at the Orford Community Field.

Updates

Water Containers:

Paul Messer is donating water containers (sap drums) for three cemeteries and David Smith will build the stands.

Gravestone Repair:

Fred Kidder will hear from his contact in short order – when snow has disappeared, and they can walk the three cemeteries assessing stone repair.

Tree Removal:

Fred Kidder will meet with Kurt to determine which trees at which cemeteries should come down. Paul Messer suggested that a contract be written for bidders, so all obtain the same treatment. It was agreed that the trees removed will be replaced.

Signs:

Cemetery Commission members reviewed the cemetery signs proposal by Julie Donnelly and selected Option 2 (see attached). It was agreed that all three signs at the three cemeteries would be the same size, 24" x 18" at a cost of \$95 each.

#### New Business

Discussion to purchase a generator for West Cemetery. Commission will look into putting request on listserv as a "donation". Motion made by Fred Kidder and seconded by Linda Pease.

#### Other Business

John O'Brien would like another meeting to update the Cemetery Commission on the placement of the Veterans Memorial Stone in the West Cemetery with vets listed from wars and conflicts prior to WWI, then one for WWI and WWII, followed by other wars and conflicts. Other sites at Dame Hill and East Cemetery to be reviewed. John's daughter, Megan, is involved with design at Harvard and could help us with that part. An index has been created to identify all those who are buried in all three cemeteries by Cora Day. The Commission has obtained a paper copy for review.

Paul Messer observed that maintenance of buildings (eaves, front and side doors) at the West Cemetery needs attention. He also suggested that perhaps the flags of Vets remain throughout the winter, which would make it easier to replace with new flags that will be put up in the Spring.

Tabled signs listing rules of the three cemeteries.

#### Other

Brenda Smith will contact Chris Crowley, a Trustee of the Trust Funds, inquiring as to what we can purchase out of the Perpetual Care Funds. Brenda will report back to the Commission. Brenda would like recognition of Kurt Gendron and all he does for our cemeteries. He is an unbelievably valuable employee. His work is commendable, and his attendance record perfect. Thank you, Kurt, for all you do. We appreciate you!

The next meeting of the Orford Cemetery Commission will be held on Saturday, May 8, 2021, 9:30 a.m. in the Niles Room.

Brenda Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Linda Pease seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda R. Pease