

~DRAFT~
CEMETERY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2017
OLD VILLAGE OFFICE
6:00PM

The meeting was brought to order at 6:05pm with the following present: Forrest Hicks, Chair, Neal Houston, Tom Maroni, Sexton, Priscilla Margola, Secretary. Forrest introduced the two new Commissioners who are Al Scaia, and Devon Carrier.

The Agenda was approved by a Motion by Al Scaia and seconded by Neal Houston, so passed.

All were given copies of the Minutes for August 18th, 2017. Seeing no corrections needed, Forrest made a Motion to approve with Neal seconding, so passed.

Tom stated that there are approximately 20 stones that need to be cleaned and new foundations at the South Readsboro Cemetery. He has started to make a listing of each row of stones with the names who are buried there and their birth date and date of death. He made a suggestion that he would like to have row markers for the Cemetery, and a file documenting the names of whom are buried in each row. So that family members can easily see where their ancestors and loved ones are interred. This will be accomplished as soon as possible. He would like to see such a system in each of our cemeteries, seemingly a very large task but could be done, one step at a time. He acknowledged that the Lions Club has donated a flag for the Heartwellville Cemetery.

Forrest told the members that we have approximately \$4,100.00 remaining in our 2017 Basic budget and the Capital budget. Our Fiscal year begins again on July 1st, 2018. The remaining money would be used for spring maintenance, mowing of cemeteries, and gravestone repairs. Devon asked where we are getting our supplies from such as epoxy and other. Forrest told him that we are dealing with Leader, formerly we dealt with Greenburg but that they were sold to Leaders so now that is whom we buy from.

Next Forrest reported of the Long Range Planning Committee, which is comprised of the following people Carol Marchegiani, Ray Eilers, Tom Maroni, Teddy Hopkins and Forrest Hicks. This committee goal is to plan for the future expansion of the village and South Hill Cemeteries, such as the undeveloped section in the Village Cemetery. This property was purchased some time ago and Danny Birch has donated much time and effort to keeping this area brush-hogged and has cleared the trees for a temporary access road. The area where the pile of loam is can be developed for future graves. The Heartwellville

Cemetery has a broad expanse in front of the existing cemetery that can be used in the future.

Forrest spoke about the LRPC search to find someone to perform ground penetrating radar. This technology can show up ledges or extremely large boulders that would make it very difficult to dig a grave. Many people contacted were quite expensive, \$1,600 to \$1,800 a day. We were put in contact Mr. William Clement the head of the department of Geosciences at the university of Mass. has agreed to come up with his students and map the area in October. This for a cost of \$200.00 per day for expanses, although the first day is free. We voted to request 2018 budget incorporate the cost of \$3,000.00 for a large excavator for 3 days to remove tree stumps and large boulders from This area.

We discussed our budgets and how they are funded. Our Base budget is \$14,000.00 that covers the mowing contract which is \$8,400.00, was increased last year by \$500.00. It is sincerely hoped that our mowing contractor will not go up again this year. We cover the deductions of FICA, Medicare, and Workmen's Comp. which previously had been covered by the town. This year we will be asking the Town to consider \$1,000.00 for documentation of all the gravestones in the 4 cemeteries.

The Capital Budget is \$15,000.00; \$10,000.00 for the stone restoration and \$5,000.00 for a gate. 2017 was the first year we had set aside the amount of \$5,000.00 for the Ornamental gates which are for the Village Cemetery. This money is locked and at the end of the fiscal year and at the end of the year remains in our capital budget . For 2018 and 2019, we will set aside that sum of \$5,000.00 for the specific purpose of gates. We also will be asking for the sum of \$3,000.00 for the removal of stumps and large stones from the undeveloped section at the village Cemetery. This amount is in addition to the requested amounts of \$10,000.00 for stone restoration and \$5,000.00 for the gates.

Tom spoke about the need for either a traveling trailer or a permanent one, to hold materials needed to do the work in each cemetery. This would make it easier to work on each cemetery. Al made a Motion to have Devon investigate what one would cost and report to us at the October 17th meeting. Neal seconded, so passed!

Forrest presented 5 invoices to be signed which was done.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm with a Motion by Neal and seconded by Forrest, so passed. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 17th. 2017 at 6:00pm.

Priscilla Margola, Secretary

Draft emailed to Forrest, September 20th, 2017