

Town of Auburn

Cemetery Trustees

March 20, 2024

10:30 AM

Trustees Present: James Thompson, Walter Milne, David Zaleski

Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order at 10:30 am

This meeting is the Annual Public meeting which was duly noticed.

Election of Officers: Mr. Milne nominated Mr. Thompson to continue as Chairman which was seconded by Mr. Zaleski and unanimously approved by the trustees. Mr. Milne was nominated by Mr. Thompson to be secretary which was seconded by Mr. Zaleski and unanimously approved by the trustees.

Cemetery Fee Schedule: The fees for Dignified Cemetery Services have increased by \$100 across the board and are posted on the town's website.

Budget: The 2024 budget was approved by the selectmen in September of 2023. The budget is \$38,577 which is up from \$36,386 the prior year due to increases in property maintenance and fertilization. Those are the largest expenses in addition to cemetery mowing which all together account for \$35,500 of the total budget. Maintenance includes projects such as tree trimming, seeding and gravestone repairs. There are only 2-3 gravestones slated for repair this year. We work with Keith at Cornerstone Cemetery Services for those repairs. Hopefully we can get those repaired when he comes down to install a concrete base. If items such as trash bags need to be bought, we have an account at Candia Hardware.

Cemetery Maintenance Fund: We added \$9,600 to the maintenance fund through the sale of plots in 2023 and \$25,000 to be added from the Warrant Article approved at Town Meeting. The balance stands at \$58,952.49.

Capital Improvement Projects: Mr. Thompson stated that the three projects we proposed to the Selectmen are 1. Fence replacement at Village Cemetery which he will spearhead, 2. Lane regrading at both cemeteries spearheaded by Mr. Zaleski, and 3. Sign replacement at the Village Cemetery spearheaded by Mr. Milne. Updated proposals should be brought to Chris, Town Administrator and to the Selectmen if needed.

Land Swap with Manchester Water Works (MWW): The surveyors will be on the property today. Once a survey is completed the trustees will approve it and it will go in front of the Manchester Board of Aldermen for approval.

Village Hearse House: There is no timeline yet for when the structure will be moved. Jim will continue to work with the Auburn Historical on this.

Seasonal work: Tree work will be done in AVC to take out the maple trees on our side of the fence near the back left. Rubbish removal will be done by Mr. Thompson at AVC and Mr. Zaleski at LMC with Mr. Milne checking on Robie Cemetery and as backup at the other two. Items to monitor include brush cutting, tree work and trash collection.

Veterans Flags: We still have some flags left over from last year. We'll work with Amy at P&R and Mike Ouelette from the local Boy Scout troop to coordinate the placing of the flags on the veteran's graves. Approximately 250 flags are placed at the two cemeteries annually.

Other business:

The American flags at the cemeteries should be replaced if tattered. The flag at AVC is 5x10' (a gift from Rick Eaton) and the LMC is 4x9'.

Mr. Thompson and Mr. Milne will attend the Spring Meeting of the NH Cemetery Association on April 18, 2024 at the Derryfield in Manchester.

Next year's projects should include ground penetrating radar to identify unmarked graves at the front of AVC.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55.

Respectfully submitted by Walt Milne, Secretary