

Ad Hoc Cemetery Committee
Minutes, March 3, 2014

1. Call to Order

Chairman Don Jones called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Members present were Don Jones, Jackie Lowell and David Sutter. Carolann Rines and Cindy Collamore were absent.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of November 4, 2013 were adopted as presented.

3. Old Business

Don Jones has located the graves in the Jackson Cemetery of the two people named on metal grave markers in David Sutter's possession. Because the graves had been marked with flush stone markers, it was decided that David could do whatever he wanted with the metal markers.

David Sutter reported he had located the grave of Sarah Albee, wife of Samuel Albee, dated 5/21/1852, age 52, off River Point Road between the parking lot and the tennis courts in the Ice Pond LLC Development. He said there were six to ten depressions in the land that could be the site of other graves and there were wires with blue flags on the site. Don Jones will call the State Historical Preservation Commission for further information. A second Albee cemetery was added to the map and list and the Road Commissioner will be advised so the town crew can maintain the cemetery.

The committee questioned what the town's responsibilities were for graves on private land. The MRSA, Title 13, Section 1101 says that access to ancient burials (before 1880) shall be provided to the town. It also states that if the town does not maintain the graves after a 14-day notice to the selectmen, there will be a \$100 penalty.

When weather improves, GPS locations of grave sites will be done.

Don Jones reported he had been unable to secure a list of veterans' graves from Bill Cossette, as Cossette had said the list was not yet complete. Discussion regarding the time period for displaying flags on veterans' graves followed and it was pointed out that information from the state Adjutant General of the American Legion indicates flags are not to be left on veterans' graves all winter. The National Americanism Commission recommends that all Legion posts follow the practice established by the National Cemeteries of removing flags from veterans' graves as soon as possible after Memorial Day and other patriotic holidays. David Sutter will check with Jim Siegars regarding the list of veterans' graves. Sutter suggested that if it was a question of not enough volunteers to attend to the flags, perhaps the Boy Scouts could take it on as a project.

4. New Business

The committee discussed the Jackson Cemetery records and Don Jones will contact Karl Olson for possible assistance.

New members were discussed. Don Jones and David Sutter have asked to be reappointed when their terms expire; Jackie Lowell has asked not to be reappointed. David Sutter suggested Judith Sutter might be interested in serving on the committee.

The Cemetery Committee will meet with the selectmen in April and the timely removal of flags will be discussed inasmuch as the law says it is the responsibility of the town; the legion is doing it on behalf of the town. The committee would like input before Memorial Day.

Don Jones will locate Jane Tucker's spreadsheet showing location of graves.

5. Future Planning

- A. Follow up with selectmen on enforcement of rules regarding removal of trees and bushes.
- B. Ascertain the process by which the list of veterans' graves is kept up to date.
- C. Find out what information is available on the Jackson Cemetery

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.