

Town of Canandaigua

5440 Routes 5 & 20 West
Canandaigua, NY 14424
(585) 394-1120 ~ townofcanandaigua.org
Established 1791

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Monday, July 5, 2022 at 9:00 AM

MEETING REPORT

MEETING CALLED BY: Karen DeMay, Chairperson, Town Board Member

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Dave York Judy York
Ray Henry Dennis Brewer

STAFF MEMBERS: Kate Silverstrim-Jensen, Staff Liaison

GUESTS: Saralinda Hooker, History Team
Peter Ellison, Ellison Conservation

(R) notates remote participants.

Cemetery Tour – Participants met at 9:00AM and traveled to Remington Root Cemetery on Nott Road. The cemetery is located behind a few homes and is accessed using an easement through the Pettinger property. Mr. Brewer noted that the trees in this location are in good condition and are very healthy. There were a few dead branches that could be seen around the hedge row, but nothing significant. The group noted that this location needs better defined boundaries and a fence around it in the future. A metal pin on the southwest corner was located with help from Mr. Pettinger. There is a fieldstone wall built up along the northern side, which is assumed to be a border marking as well. Many of the headstones are in great shape and primarily only need to be cleaned.

The group then traveled to Academy Cemetery. Mr. Brewer noted that the trees at this site are also in good condition and the evergreen in the center has been noted for nomination to become a heritage tree. There are two trees just outside the fence by the storage shed that need attention, one is split and can be braced, the other is decaying and can be taken down. It was also noted that

the sign for Academy Cemetery is looking dated and could be spruced up with new paint or replacement. Participants noticed several headstones in this location that are made from metal. Ms. Hooker was able to find that these were made primarily by a local company between 1875 and 1925 using a material that is zinc based, called white bronze. These clearly have withstood weather and aging better as they are in very good condition. There was also a question of whether the land across the street is owned by the town or not.

Lastly the group traveled to Lucas Cemetery to meet with Peter Ellison. Peter explained what he does and answered questions from the group. He pointed out an example of a repaired bluestone headstone, as well as a few marble headstones and explained that the repairs need to be done with a material that is the same as the headstone, rather than having different properties which makes the repair meaningless. He also suggested the utilization of volunteer for items such as cleaning and resetting headstones, inventory updates, and perimeter clean-up. Mr. Brewer noted that the trees in this location are in good shape. There were a few dead branches hanging over from the other side of the fence which need to be trimmed back.

Now that the committee has visited all of the cemetery sites, the next step will be to establish a list of needs which can be prioritized to create a plan of action going forward.

The next meeting will be Monday, August 8 at 9AM at the Canandaigua Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 11:38AM

Next Meeting: August 8, 2022, 9:00AM