

Town of Canandaigua

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Established 1791

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Monday, October 3, 2022 at 9:00 AM

MEETING REPORT

MEETING CALLED BY: Karen DeMay, Chairperson, Town Board Member (R)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Judy York Leif HerrGesell
Ray Henry Dennis Brewer

STAFF MEMBERS: Kate Silverstrim-Jensen, Staff Liaison

GUESTS:

(R) notates remote participants.

Meeting was opened at 9:04 AM by Town Historian, Leif Herrgesell. He thanked everyone for their participation in the Hunn Cemetery clean-up event. A few hours of work made huge progress and left just a small amount of the hedge left to remove. Everyone was grateful for the good weather and Kate suggested we plan a rain date for future events just in case we aren't always so lucky. Everyone was grateful that participants from other Town teams and committees attended as well. Look for an article in the October Town Newsletter with photos from the event.

The Cemetery Committee received an email from Saralinda Hooker, the chairperson of the Town's History Team, regarding a few items for discussion. She restated the History Team's support for cemetery mowing to be handled by town staff. Chairwoman DeMay felt there is support for that in the 2023 budget. The Town Board is holding a Budget Workshop this evening and anticipates adopting the budget at the October 17, 2022 regular meeting.

Richard and Donna West have finished mapping the gravesites at Academy Cemetery and are thinking they would like to work at Remington Root Cemetery next. There are several areas in

that cemetery where there are suspected grave sites but no grave markers. They asked about the use of ground penetrating radar (GPR) to help identify these areas. The committee would like to find out more about the GPR equipment, such as equipment variations and costs. Mr. HerrGesell has related information he will share during the Town Historian update.

There is a blank grave marker at Hunn Cemetery which was erected after a car accident damaged the original marker in 2007. At the time no one was able to identify the person whose marker was destroyed, but the History Team has worked with local genealogist, Arlene Reeves, and using DAR genealogical records, they were able to find that the grave belongs to Levi Bissell. The Cemetery Committee has been asked to explore engraving the blank grave marker. Leif will look into the possibility of having a veteran marker engraved and installed, and Kate will gather costs to have the current stone engraved, so that the committee can discuss this in detail at the next meeting.

The last item of discussion from the History Team's email is that local resident and genealogist, Arlene Reeves, has fragments of her ancestor, Elizabeth Van Norman's, gravestone. The rest of Elizabeth's family is buried in Hunn Cemetery, and Ms. Reeves has asked if she could place the fragments of Elizabeth's stone with the rest of her family. Chairwoman DeMay and Town Historian HerrGesell will reach out to Ms. Reeves to clarify her request and invite her to attend the next Cemetery Committee meeting.

It was discussed that next month would be a good time to develop an event schedule for 2023. This will be an item on the next agenda.

Lastly, Leif has been in communication with the Director of the Quaker House Museum in Pumpkin Hook, a gentleman named Dave. Dave has been using his metal detector to identify unmarked graves. He uses flag markers to pin where iron or copper is identified and has been amazed by how quickly those markers form a rectangle. This could be used to give indication of unmarked graves at no or low cost, and GPR could be used after to locate with more accuracy. Remington Root Cemetery is the perfect candidate for this. Leif also noted that if there are not

unmarked graves, there may be re-located burials. He has found records in Woodlawn Cemetery that indicate remains have been moved there from town cemeteries.

In order to finish the work at Hunn Cemetery (intersection of Woolhouse Road and County Road 32), a second clean up day has been scheduled for Saturday, October 15, at 10AM. (Rain date is Saturday, October 22). Coffee and donuts will be provided.

The next regularly scheduled committee meeting will be on Monday, November 7, at 9AM.
Meeting adjourned at 10:54 AM.