

FINAL

RIDGEFIELD GRAVEYARD RESTORATION COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 15, 2021

SCOTT HOUSE - RIDGEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESENT: Sara Champion, George Hancock, Susan Law, Jeff Lundberg, Tom McManus, Nancy Selander, Sarah Slavin, Joel Third.

EXCUSED: Cathy Potel.

Chair Jeff Lundberg called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2021: The minutes were accepted as spelling was corrected.

TREASURER REPORT: In the last five months, three sessions of tree removals have cost nearly \$50,000. The Town had approved \$25,000 towards this necessity. The high cost was due to the size of the trees and the equipment necessary. More work still needs to be done as there are dead or dying ash trees in New Florida, Branchville and Mapleshade Cemeteries. It is unclear how much of the cost the Town will cover.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Leaf removal in Mapleshade and Olde Town Cemeteries is underway.
2. Tree Selection Committee: Many thanks to George Hancock for looking into the price and availability of redbud trees. A Sourwood tree is available and the Committee unanimously agreed to purchase it and plant as soon as possible.
3. The May 1, 2022 date planned for the burial of the skeleton remains of possible Revolutionary soldiers still is going forward but the forensic research has yet to be completed. A site in Olde Town Cemetery has been chosen for the re-burial.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The Committee voted unanimously to raise the prices of plots in Mapleshade to \$2,000 for a full gravesite and \$1,000 for cremains, effective January 1, 2022. Dan Jowdy and Rudy Marconi will be advised of this action. Subtle advertising is a possibility.
2. This Saturday, November 20th we will have a quick fall cleanup..... 10 AM at Branchville and 11 AM at Mapleshade. The focus will be to remove seasonal decorations and other items throughout.
3. The newly formed DAR chapter in Ridgefield would like to participate in the "Wreaths Across America" Program by laying a symbolic large wreath. It was agreed that this would be a nice gesture and would best be done at the entrance to possibly Mapleshade Cemetery. This will occur on December 18th at 11:30 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 PM.

Susan Law, Recorder