

DRAFT

RIDGEFIELD GRAVEYARD RESTORATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

MARCH 20, 2023 6 PM RIDGEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESENT: George Hancock, Mike Harrington, Susan Kveskin, Susan Law, Nancy Selander, Sarah Slavin, Tom McManus.

EXCUSED: Sara Champion, Joel Third.

Nancy Selander called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Minutes of the January 23, 2023 meeting were accepted after corrections were made.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tom reminded everyone that any checks that are received or receipts that are submitted should be COPIES ONLY. If the transaction is a plot sale, the plot number and interred person's name must be included, as well as the name of the purchaser. Expenses incurred were for two days of tree work in Olde Town - \$3,000, two days in Branchville - \$5,000, and the removal of a dangerous dead tree in Old Florida. A benefactor, the Robert K. Johnson Foundation, had donated the money to cover the Branchville Cemetery expenses.

LIAISON WITH THE SEXTONS: One cremains plot was sold in Mapleshade. A recent burial took place in Branchville Cemetery but Bill had not received any word of it.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. April 1, 2023 is the date of the Spring Clean-up in Mapleshade and Olde Town.
2. Grant Applications. Tom reported that the state grant for abandoned cemeteries was submitted and Rudy and the Town cooperated with the necessary paperwork. Notification should occur later this Spring. The Thrift Shop grant will also be announced within a few weeks.
3. Trees/Bushes plantings. The 21 donated young trees that were planted along the perimeters of Mapleshade and Ridgefield/Scott Cemeteries might be able to be transplanted in more favorable locations within the cemeteries. A good possibility would be Olde Town/Titicus and possibly Branchville where some old stumps currently are. The Conservation Committee has suggested using Native Dogwood (single stem) and discussion was to possibly plant them after removing some invasive barberry bushes. Plans to select some locations for the above were mentioned.
4. Plans to participate in the Memorial Day Parade were discussed. Mike, Tom, Nancy, George and Susan L. hope to march.
5. Fall Cemetery Tour is being planned. A list of possible Spanish Influenza victims is being investigated for possible inclusion. Also being considered are interesting "Gilded Age" residents of approximately the same time frame who are buried within the triangle cemetery complex.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The old tombstone that is standing by the entrance of the Historical Society should be relocated to rest near family members. Betsy Reid has investigated possible connections and Ridgebury Cemetery might be a possibility. We are going to look into further research regarding this.
2. Susan L. is going to place an order for more Graveyard Committee tee shirts this week. These will be worn by those marching in the parade.
3. A labeled wooden cremains box has been left by a headstone of the same name near the entrance to Mapleshade Cemetery. This needs to be buried once the weather will allow for an interment.
4. Many thanks to George Hancock for his donation of time and money to clear and clean up Old Florida Cemetery with the aid of Roger Keller. There was some discussion as to how to control further overgrowth.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM

Susan Law, Recorder