

Town of Salisbury



Academy Hall – 9 Old Coach Road
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*Geoffrey Hodges, Chair
Dora Rapalyea
Debbie Bartz
Cemetery Trustees
John Bentley, Sexton*

Meeting Minutes – August 5, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Trustee Chairman Geoffrey Hodges,
Trustee Secretary Dora Rapalyea,
Trustee Debbie Bartz
Absent: Sexton John Bentley
Visitors: None

Minutes of July 1, 2021 were read and approved by the Trustees.

Old Business: The gate for the Congregational Church Cemetery will be hung in the next few weeks.

Treatment of the wall at the Maplewood Cemetery will be completed this summer, weather permitting.

The removal of the debris in the Maplewood Cemetery is pending. JJ will be asked for a bid, to remove the dirt and level and seed one grave site.

There is a tree over the fence in Maplewood Cemetery that will be removed, when the weather allows. Trustees Dora Rapalyea and Debbie Bartz walked all seven cemeteries and made notes of what needed to be done for upkeep and maintenance.

New Business: The tall pines in Fellows Cemetery need to be tended to. The Trustees are all in agreement that they are a danger to the cemetery. We as Trustees will in the very near future go out for bids to remove these very dangerous over grown trees. This will be a very large, expensive but necessary project. Our hope is to start this project in the 2022.

Additional project the Trustees view as very important is new signage at all the cemeteries. Four of the seven cemeteries have no identification naming the cemetery. This oversight makes it very difficult for people to identify cemeteries and their location. Dora Rapalyea will inquire into the cost of

purchasing seven new signs. The Cemetery Trustees considers this a very important project. The Board hopes this will also start in 2022.

Sexton John Bentley put before the board a number of suggestions and revisions. One very strong suggestion is that at least one trustee should be available to attend burials if the sexton is not available; if the sexton is not available; Dignified Cemetery Services will be called for interment. John also put forth a proposal for consideration regarding Rights of Interment and the issuance of receipts and form tracking. The board will take this information and review it.

Sexton John Bentley has tried for a numbers of years to find someone to train and take over for him, however, there has been no interest. The stipend of \$3,000 before taxes is not appealing. In other area towns, the job of the sexton is to lay out the graves, sell the rights of interment, keep the records, and supervise the mowing. The sextons do not do any digging. The job may be more appealing if the stipend reflected the duties of sexton.

Public Comment: None

Next Meeting: September 2, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at Academy Hall

Meeting Adjourned: 7:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Dora Rapalyea
Secretary, Cemetery Trustees