

Islesboro Cemetery Committee
Minutes
Oct. 29, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 4:39PM. Present was Carole Nichter, Murton Durkee, Gordon Murphy, William Boardman, Brenda Thomas and Cindy Gorham. A quorum was established. The minutes from July 16, 2013 were accepted as written. New Member Gordon Murphy was welcomed to the committee. We would like to thank outgoing member Julie Reidy for her years of service and interest in the island's cemeteries.

Old Business: Bayview-damage to the chain link fence at the back of the cemetery has been repaired by Eric Tierney. New signs directing people to entrances both in front and in back of the cemetery have been erected. The new flag pole has been installed by member Murton Durkee. There is still tree removal to be dealt with but will be done later in the season.

Sprague-Bill Boardman has spoken with John Dove to do the repair work on the rock wall surrounding the cemetery. There are 3 areas that need repair. The southern and eastern areas just outside the rock wall has been cleaned up by the town's Department of Public Works and is looking much better. There are still trees that need to come down that Erik Tierney will be dealing with. The new flag pole is up thanks to Murton Durkee.

A motion was made to allow Cindy Gorham to purchase two new Christmas wreaths for Bayview and Sprague and install them at a later date. Motion was seconded and passed.

NEW BUSINESS: In October a new law was passed-- L.D. 274: An Act to Preserve and Protect Ancient Burial Grounds and Burial Grounds in which Veterans are buried. This means that towns shall keep in good condition all graves, headstones, monuments and markers to the best of its ability. The law specifically says that grass, weeds and brush (including keeping the burial place free of fallen trees, branches, vines and weeds) will be suitably cut and trimmed on those graves from May 1 to September 30 of each year. (See attached copy of the law).

The committee will be organizing to deal with this new law. Owners of land where cemeteries are located will be notified of the new law along with a cemetery preservation questionnaire regarding doing the work in the cemeteries.(see attached). We will be organizing a team of volunteers to help with this massive undertaking. MOCA, Maine Old Cemetery Association, will be offering a class in St. George in the spring of 2014 dealing with cemetery preservation. We will try to get as many people to attend as possible. More information will be forthcoming in the spring. We are also asking land owners if they are willing to participate in the proposed 2014 Cemetery Tour celebrating the 225th anniversary of Islesboro. The committee will also be asking for an increase in budget for next year to deal with this measure. The Islesboro Island News will also be notified to write a story regarding this new law. More to come on this new law.

MISC: Budget: Due to the new cemetery law, the committee will be asking for an increase in our budget for the next few years. We will discuss this at our next meeting in Dec. 2013 (date to be determined) and present it at the budget hearings in February.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carole Nichter Chairman