

Islesboro Cemetery Committee
Meeting
October 25, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 4:40PM. Present were Carole Nichter, William Boardman, and Cindy Gorham. The minutes from May 3, 2011 were read and accepted as written.

OLD BUSINESS: Cindy Gorham gave a report on the GPS project at Bayview Cemetery done by Sheila Coombs class and the Island Institute fellow James Westhafer. The class worked with Vicky Conover plotting the location points on a map for locating the unmarked burial sites if needed in the future. This report is available at the town office in the cemetery minutes notebook in the meeting room. Mr. Boardman suggested we look into possibly finding some small markers to place on these sites. He will look into what is available and the cost.

There has been one burial at Bayview this year in a previously owned lot.

Trees have been trimmed back, broken branches removed, sunken grave sites filled in with soil and reseeded, and a large stump removed at the back of the cemetery just outside the gate. The ditch at the front was dug out to provide for better drainage.

The new grave sites will be marked off in the Spring of 2012 after the proposed ordinance changes have been approved at a town meeting.

Inspections were done at both the Sprague and Bayview Cemeteries by Dornan's Cemetery Repair from Thomaston, Me. A list of proposed repairs at both cemeteries was done along with photos taken of each. Most of the repair work that needs to be done is located in the Sprague Cemetery. We will concentrate on this first. Three standing dead trees have also been removed from the Sprague Cemetery.

NEW BUSINESS: Next years budget needs were discussed with repairs being high on the list of needs. Dirt work needs to be done in both cemeteries. Carole Nichter would like to see a flag pole placed at Sprague. It was decided the committee would request \$2500 at the next budget workshop. Bill Boardman will present this to the Selectmen as Carole Nichter will be out of the state at that time. A motion was made by Carole Nichter to ask for \$2500 at the budget workshops, motion was seconded by Bill Boardman and passed by a vote of 3yes, 0 no.

OTHER CEMETERIES: Inspections continue to be done at private burial sites. When possible the owners of the land where the sites are located are notified of any major damage or issues. Greenwood Cemetery, a privately owned and maintained cemetery is in the process of reorganizing, mapping out the cemetery and resuming documentation of burials. Maple Grove Cemetery, also privately maintained, continues to document recent burials. Many privately maintained cemeteries throughout the state are struggling with funds to keep the cemeteries going. Fewer and fewer people are buying lots due to cremation. Lot sales help fund the maintenance of these cemeteries.

Election of Officers: A motion was made by Bill Boardman to nominate Carole Nichter as chairperson and Cindy Gorham as vice-chair for the cemetery committee. The motion was seconded by Cindy Gorham, vote taken and motion passed with a 3-0 vote.

Carole Nichter met with the Board of Selectmen on 10-5-2011 to give a report on what the cemetery committee has done and what the goals of the committee are.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15PM.

Respectfully submitted.

Carole Nichter
Chairperson