



**Norridgewock Cemetery Committee
Meeting Notes
August 26, 2021
4:30 PM
Conference Room, Norridgewock Town Office**

ACCEPTED
09/14/2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kathy Hopkins
Becky Ketchum
Sallie Wilder

STAFF PRESENT

Richard LaBelle, Town Manager

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tasha Raymond
Reta Thebarga

No members of the public were present for the meeting.

It has been since November 2017 that the Cemetery Committee met; the gap in time largely due to completing the update to the Cemetery Ordinance. There was discussion about the need to reconvene the committee and developing a list of priorities for the cemetery. There are maintenance concerns, both short- and long-term, that need to be reviewed and planned for. The committee will work to determine the priority list and must consider balancing preventative maintenance and restoration.

There is an opportunity to apply for a Maine Old Cemetery Association (MOCA) workshop to be held in Norridgewock, but an application must be filed. It was discussed about filing a joint application; the historical society would be the lead applicant with support from the Town. The Town Manager will work on drafting the application in the next week.

Some members had the opportunity to walk Riverview Cemetery (Upper Main St.) and noted that there is quite a bit of small bush and tree work that would make a big difference. A representative from Public Works will get in touch with Kathy to go over the cemetery and discuss what some of the more immediate needs are.

Discussion about the ordinance took place and whether or not there is a need to revise it for consideration at a future town meeting. Stone placement and opening/closing responsibility are among items considered. If there is to be a revision proposed, the Town Manager suggests updating references from Board of Selectmen to Select Board.

Kathy suggests developing a checklist for new lot owners to review when maintaining one's cemetery lot: stone placement, permissions, etc. Once developed, this should also be shared with stone vendors and area funeral homes.

The process of completing maintenance is cemeteries remained the focus of most of the meeting. The prioritization of types of maintenance, which cemeteries, what types of damage, etc. These are all items that need to be considered. Then, there would need to be a rough cost estimate as to what projects would cost. Who would complete the repair work? Is there more than just one or

two vendors? The Town Manager suggests that the committee adopt a policy internally that would guide decisions on what maintenance project get completed and what prioritizes said project ahead of another.

Budgeting for the projects will require quite a bit of review to be completed. This led to preliminary discussions regarding proposed funding sources. There is a cemetery trust account with approximately \$104,000 in it, but there remains question as to how much of that account is earned interest that could be spent. The Town Manager will inquire and attempt to find a determination.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 14, 2021. The meeting will begin at 10:00 am at the Town Office, then depending on the weather, members will tour cemeteries.