

## **Cemetery Meeting Minutes**

August 14, 2018

**Present:** Maryann Reeves, David Hodges, Lynda Sower, Laura Staats

### **Old Business:**

Washout repair in Otisco Cemetery was completed and has held up under the new rains we have had.

Joe Borek reported that there were just two more trees to be removed and then Rick Anderson can be contacted to schedule the leveling out and installation of the new parking area. Laura will notify him when the trees have been removed.

The new ribbon foundations were installed in the Otisco Cemetery; Zella Jones N96-3, Ruth Smith N72-3, Joel Curtis N13-1, Lula Helsel N89-2 & Ron Helsel N89-1. Maryann will contact Ralph VanOkerand give him the names of the two ribbons to be installed in the Smyrna Cemetery; Dorothy Alan lot # 312 and Lydia G Breuer lot # 38. One of these graves has no marker and the other no visible foundation. A ribbon foundation will be poured and the location number inscribed into the foundation for future identification. The committee hopes to be able to install some ribbon foundations each year to upright old markers and mark unmarked graves for future generations.

The broken urns and ceramic culverts used as planters that are now in disuse and broken will be cleaned out on October 2, 2018. The committee will meet at the Smyrna Cemetery at 9:30 am and then move on to the Otisco Cemetery for the same purpose.

### **New Business:**

Ralph VanOkerhas announced that August 31<sup>st</sup> will be his last day as Sextant for the Township. The Cemetery committee had one name of a possible replacement. This was given to Lynda, she also said that she had the name of another individual that showed interest in being the Township Sextant.

A motion was made and supported that the Cemetery Committee purchase a 5 gallon pail of D2 headstone and marker cleaner. Passed 4 - 0 Old markers that encrusted with lichen will be sprayed during the fall clean-up. Results should be visible the next spring or summer. It was noted that the full cleaning power of the spray takes about 10 – 12 months to fully show its cleaning ability.

David Hodges has gone online and completed the form for the Ionia County Road Commission regarding the trees outside the fence at the Otisco Cemetery along Whites Bridge Road. They are slowly dying and drop branches. The trees are in the road right of way, and should be removed by the County at no expense to the Township.

The Cemetery Committee discussed the possibility of adding electric gates at both cemeteries. David Hodges said that TSC has a gate system that we can look into. Laura Staats said that at the time the iron gates were purchased that electronic gates were considered. She has volunteered to see if she can find the original quote to see who the supplier was.

David Hodges asked if it was okay for him to trim back some of the branches on the south side of the entry drive. It was agreed that it should be done and he was authorized to do so.

**Fall Clean-up** October 2, at Smyrna Cemetery meet at 9:30 am.

**Next Meeting: October 23, 2018 @ 9:00 am Township Hall**

Respectfully submitted  
Laura J Staats