

Cemetery Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2019

Present: Maryann Reeves, Lynda Sower, Laura Staats,

Absent: Paul Reeves, David Hodges, Shane McDonald, Joe Borek

Old Business:

Spring Clean-up, there was very little to do on June 3rd. Lynda has had the Community Service workers walk through the cemeteries and pick up the small branches and other objects. A few small trees were cut in Smyrna Cemetery, and sprayed so that they wouldn't grow back. The walk-through in Otisco took even less time. In both cemeteries there was discussion on the tree limbs that will need to be taken care of. This will require a professional tree trimmer. The Cemetery Committee will request that the Township Board hire someone to take care of these selected trees. The dumpsters were only full of cemetery type trash, this was good. Lynda will call to have them emptied.

Shane McDonald volunteered to spray D2 on the markers in the Smyrna Cemetery, which he did. An additional two 5 gallon pails have been ordered so that more can be sprayed. We are already seeing the effect of the spray on the markers, they look much better. Thank you Shane.

Brush removal is needed at both cemeteries. Joe Borek offered to rent a chipper for about \$200 for a day, and put a bid in for doing the chipping in both cemeteries. This has not been completed at this time and the Committee will request that the Township Board get additional estimates. This is a maintenance issue and not an improvement. Maryann recommended a company from Ionia and will call them for a quote.

The 'dirt pile' in Otisco, still needs to be addressed. This pile was created when the new drive was installed. The purpose of the pile was to fill in sunken graves and cover exposed tree roots under the tall pines near the front of Otisco Cemetery. The Board will be asked to determine what should be done with the dirt pile. This is a maintenance issue and not an improvement.

New Business:

Laura asked Lynda if she had spoken with the Gravestone Services [Tom and Connie Doty] regarding the re-broken grave markers in Smyrna Cemetery. Lynda reported that she had spoken to them last year and will follow up with them. They guarantee their work and should repair the markers at no cost to the Township.

Maryann asked if the Community Services workers can do some clean-up along the north border of the Otisco Cemetery. We are not looking at tree removal, just trimming back the low growing shrubs and branches. Lynda said she would talk to the Community Service workers about it.

Maryann inquired about the Township looking into purchasing the wooded area owned by Tony and Mary Porter, to the south of the Otisco Cemetery, if they have an interest in selling.

Next Meeting: July 9, 2019 @ 9:00 am Township Hall

Respectfully submitted,
Laura J Staats