

Cemetery Meeting Minutes

July 7, 2020

Present: Maryann Reeves, Laura Staats, Shane McDonald, Lynda Sower, Greg Terry

Absent: Paul Reeves, Joe Borek, David Hodges

Old Business:

Shane McDonald sprayed the grave markers in Smyrna Cemetery. They are looking very nice. The D2 spray does a nice job of self-cleaning the markers. We requested that Lynda order two more 5 gallon buckets to be used at the Otisco Cemetery. Maryann asked that the dirtiest markers on the south side be treated first and then those in the center.

Joe Borek stated at a Township Board Meeting that he will request a burn permit to burn the balance of the brush at Smyrna Cemetery. He has already received payment in full for the portion he has already burned.

Marker Repair, Lynda asked the Doty's if they would re-repair the monuments in Smyrna that broke off again. They inquired of Lynda if including some kind of permanent brace would be acceptable. It was agreed that a visible brace is preferable to a broken marker. Lynda will check with the Doty's again regarding the timing of the repairs.

Maryann has stopped at the home of Tony and Mary Porter, to the south of the Otisco Cemetery. There was no answer when she knocked at the door. The Cemetery Committee has compiled a letter including a diagram asking if they might have an interest in selling a portion too the Township for future burial use. A letter will also be sent to the Griffioen's asking the same about land to the north. There is not an immediate need at the Otisco location, but the land for expansion may not be available for purchase at a later time. Lynda will put the letters on Township letterhead and mail them to the Porter's and Griffioen's.

There was further discussion regarding the requirement of a 'Ribbon' style foundation for all markers. No motion was made but it was agreed three to two that the ordinance should be modified. Lynda will prepare an amendment to the Cemetery Ordinance rescinding the 'Ribbon' foundation as mandatory. She will present it to the Township Board for review and a vote.

The new parking lot and Columbarium were discussed. A revised layout was presented to the Cemetery Committee. The new layout takes into consideration the pathway Joe Borek created when clearing the trees. The old design would have required the completion of the Hubbard Road extension as access to the new lower burial plots. The re-design takes the newly created path as a future drive to the lower area. It will also make it easier to maintain the drainage ditch that is required. The new design also places the Memorial Garden in front of the Columbaria. It was discussed that at the time the garden is under construction that underground water lines be

installed for future sprinklers for the garden. Laura will look into the usefulness of the existing well and cost to get the lines laid.

Boundary markings for the parking lot was discussed. Laura presented some chain options and post options with pricing. Upon further discussion it was pointed out that split rail fence posts and yellow plastic chain were used to protect the Hulliberger marker at the rear corner of the drive extension in Otisco. It was determined that this was a nice looking option, and probably less costly. The yellow chain selection was made because it will show up against the snow and in headlights at night as opposed to white or black chains. The design would follow that of Otisco with two rows of chains and the use of split rail fence posts. Shane made a motion to fence the new parking lot at Smyrna Cemetery in the same manner, with a price cap of \$850 to buy the necessary materials. Seconded by Maryann. Two options were presented. To at least fence the east and south side if that is as far as the money would permit. Otherwise to extend the treatment around all three sides and the well head if pricing permits.

Maryann has some 'pudding stones' that were Fred Reeves she would like to donate to be put around the well to protect it. As 'pudding stones' are collectible it is recommended that they be cemented in place.

New Business:

Lynda was complimented on how nice the cemeteries look, and it was determined that a general cleanup was not required. Maryann noted that along the north edge of Otisco Cemetery some rubbish has collected along the fence line and should be cleaned up. Maryann also noted that the north east corner of Smyrna is becoming overgrown with berry bushes and other shrubs and should be cut back or cleaned out.

Next Meeting: Monday, August 31, 2020 @ 9:00 am Township Hall

Respectfully submitted,
Laura J Staats