

Cushing Cemetery Board (CCB) Minutes

Attendees: Terry Melanson, Taylor Stenger, Tony Antoline (Historical Society Rep & CCB member), Ryan Minikis, Tracey B (Selectboard Rep)

Guest: Amanda Shelmerdine (Warren Sexton), Craig Normand (Selectman)

Meeting started at 6:10pm

1.) Review Cushing [Cemetery Ordinance](#)/ Handbook

a.) Article V

i.) States three members

(1) Do we want to limit it to 3 members?

(a) No conclusive vote

(2) Vote on meeting secretary

(a) Nominated: Taylor

(i) Unanimous vote

(3) Vote on Meeting Chair

(a) Nominated: Terry

(i) Unanimous vote

(4) Tony Volunteered as our Historical Society liaison

2.) Select next meeting time

a.) **April 16th at 6pm**

i.) Review presentation for historical society

3.) Access to ancient cemeteries

a.) Orientation to [Maine Revised Statutes Title 13, Chapter 83](#)

i.) Cemetery Access

(1) 13 §1101-B. Ancient Burying Grounds

(a) Need to send out letters to current land owners

(b) Look at deeds for each cemetery, some may not be owned by anyone

(2) Terry has had some problems accessing cemeteries

(a) Landowner permission being issue.

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b.) Photographing stones

i.) Phone is easiest

(1) Meta data should be on (lat/long location/date of photograph)

(2) Recommend storage on common access location

(3) findagrave.com can/should be updated

(a) [Cushing specific link here](#)

ii.) Mirror behind you to direct light to stone works well

iii.) MOCA sheet to fill out for each stone

(1) <https://www.moca-me.org/>

iv.) Build a community to help preserve and record cemetery info

c.) Connect with Cushing Historical Society

i.) Warren conducts tours of cemeteries/headstones

(1) Prior family research done, approx 15 headstones

(2) Can be a fundraiser (selling food)

(3) Discuss for future event between CCC and Historical Society

ii.) Wednesday, May 13th at 6pm, Cushing Historical Society Presentation from Cemetery Committee.

(1) Approved Unanimously

(2) Need to finetune presentation prior to meeting

d.) Connect with [MOCA](#)

i.) Connect with MOCA for scheduling. (TBD)

ii.) Inquire about lifetime organization membership for CCC?

4.) Veteran Stones

a.) Motion to meet and lay flags Saturday May 23rd at 8am, Rain date Sunday May 23rd

i.) Approved Unanimously

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- ii.) Replace plastic holders with metal ones
- iii.) Coordinate with Town to put out call for volunteers
- iv.) Flags placed for memorial day thru veterans day.
 - (1) Determine Flag removal date at future meeting

5.) **Motion to mow week of May 10th**

- a.) Approved Unanimously
- b.) Need to do walk thru w/ mower prior

6.) Perpetual care account

- i.) several accounts across different cemeteries
- ii.) Ryan will meet with Tracey to compile financials available to the cemetery committee (perpetual funds)
 - (1) Will present findings at April meeting

7.) Mowing

- a.) Schedule walk thru w/ mowing company and note stones and sign off before mowing season.
- b.) Ryan will coordinate board tour w/ mowing contractor
 - i.) May 15th, time TBD, 2 day event. Start with North Cushing
 - ii.) Ryan will circle back with board
- c.) See below (item 9f) for recommendations from Warren's Sexton

8.) Welcome Amanda Shelmerdine, Warren Sexton and MOCA member

- a.) Welcome!

9.) Responsibility for Repairing Stones

- a.) Need to collect inventory of broken stones, photo and location.
- b.) Plant issues/removals for each cemetery
- c.) Filling in sunken spots in many locations
- d.) Raise broken stones out of the soil
 - i.) Use 2x4 to keep off of ground.

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- e.) Warren closes cemeteries from nov 15th - may15th
- f.) Mark broken stones for mowing company/ensure they're aware.
 - i.) No stand behind mowers (in warren)
 - ii.) Push mowers around stones (but not within 18 inches?)
 - iii.) Weedwhacker 18inches up to stone.
 - iv.) 1 million insurance for mowers, due to breakage.
 - v.) Warren mowing budget for cemeteries, \$42,000
- g.) MOCA training should be required prior to any cleaning/repair
- h.) Monument companies
 - i.) Brooks
 - ii.) Gentlemen in Appleton
 - iii.) Will get list from Amanda (Warren sexton)
- 10.) Interim Sexton
 - a.) Terry will maintain position
 - b.) Will call Taylor and Ryan prior to burials for training on procedures
- 11.) Review bylaws that encompass burial
 - a.) Deed registration should be required after purchase
 - b.) Permit verification should be recorded
 - c.) Revisions presented at next meeting?
 - i.) Priorities:
 - (1) Procedural form for burial
 - (2) Safety
 - (3) Documentation
 - (4) Open to the public
 - (5) Sexton can remove tree/brush that is exceeding cemetery plot
- 12.) Ryan will review ancient cemetery access letters prior to next meeting
 - a.) Prepare a form letter to be sent out to current land owners who have a cemetery on their property.

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- 13.) Prepare budget for January 2027 (ongoing)
 - a.) Repair fence at Norton
 - i.) Need estimate
 - b.) Pleasant View, remove Rhododendron
 - i.) Need estimate
 - c.) Robinson Yard, Fence line repair
 - i.) Need estimate
- 14.) Have a process to notify repairs per statute 1371
 - a.) Post notice to town
 - i.) Ryan will prepare a notice that the board will review prior to being posted at cemeteries, online, and on town office post board prior to 2026 repair work or maintenance.
 - b.) Ancient Stones vs Family
 - i.) If family does not want any cleaning/repair they have to notify town in writing
- 15.) Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm