

OHCC Meeting May 5, 2023

Present: Mike Voncannon, Bill Gay, Heather Almquist, Lea Carver and Walter Guptill (via phone).

Update on abandoned cemetery procedure for the Merriman Cemetery, etc.:

Notice ran in Courier from 3/30-4/6-4/13

At the May 1, 2023 Select Board meeting there was no opposition to the acquisition of the Merriman Cemetery. Paul Harrell was contacted via email telling him this and asking him to draft the warrant article and confirmation of acquisition.

Paul Harrell will be writing up the warrant article which needs to be submitted to the town for Annual Report by July 1st.

Lea suggested the OHCC get a new bronze marker for Llewellyn Norwood. BCH funeral home or American Lighthouse Foundation might be willing to provide this.

Fencing ideas were discussed. Simple metal poles with hanging chain might be most cost effective. Lea will contact Doug Beck (head of Maine State Parks) about the State helping with this.

OH/Airport Cemetery:

New appraisal, 21K, waiting to find out if FAA will approve. There will be a meeting on June 8 to discuss this matter.

Would be great to have this on the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting.

Budget:

9 Cemetery Signs made by Frank Ross, including installation - \$1089

Courier notice (Merriman Cemetery) \$370.02

Transcription book - estimate for 25 \$418-\$900 (Adventure Advertising most expensive) this will be on next years budget. Heather will check with Staples for an estimate.

Treasurer - Walter is willing to assume this role for the next fiscal year which begins July 1st of 2023!

3K was transferred to the CRA account on May 1.

Miscellaneous:

Walter will organize future conservation projects.

Ideally we would have another member on the OHCC. Maximum of 5.

Transcription Booklet:

Lea will contact Joe Baum to see what he keeps for burial records. There are likely more burials in town without markers, thus not on our records.

Lea will check with the MRHS to see if they can guesstimate how many books might be sold through its website.

Flags:

We have 5 War of 1812 and 10 War of 1776 medallions to put out.

The Select Board was reminded at the May 1st meeting of our new flag protocol whereby flags will only be out for a week or so to observe just Memorial & Veterans Days. The staff at the Town Office were also notified.

We set dates to put out and take in the flags for Memorial Day. They will be put out on May 25 (rain date the 26) and taken down the following week by OHCC members.

Sexton:

The OHCC needs to continue researching and defining the roles of a Sexton versus what the OHCC is willing and able to do. The Owls Head Cemetery is likely to have more lots sell if the town purchases the property.

Mike did a report for the Select Board years ago which should be reviewed and updated if necessary.

Ordinance review and update:

Tabled for another meeting which will be solely for this purpose.

The OHCC agreed it will be best to completely rewrite the Ordinance, which will have to go to the Planning Board, to the Select Board for approval, and then to a town vote.

It was noted that the new Ordinance will need to be sent to the local funeral homes.

Respectfully submitted by Lea Carver