

Minutes of December 11, 2007

Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Association Meeting

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Opening Ceremonies by: Gary Laweryson (Moment of silence & Pledge Allegiance to Our Flag)

Call to Order and Roll Call of Members: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll Call was taken as follows: **Present** –Gary Laweryson, Glenda Knowlan, Arthur Roy, Mike Clark, David Richmond, Gary Laweryson, Peter Ogden, Kenny Ware, Kelley Wynne, Marvin Woodbury.

Excused – William Henshaw, Don Simoneau, General Libby **Unexcused Absence** –

Minutes September 2007: *Motion made, seconded and passed to accept minutes of September 2007 meeting.*

Treasurer's Report: Mike Clark

Mike Clark handed out and reviewed the Quarterly Report.

Mike gave an overview of all of the investments and requested approval from members to move the Kennebec Savings Bond over to the Raymond James account, which would yield a higher percentage rate.

Motion made, accepted and passed to allow Mike Clark, Treasurer to move the Kennebec Savings Bond to the Raymond James account for a higher percentage rate.

During the past few months Mike has created a Veterans Memorial Cemetery Association website. He has set up links, pictures, and forms. Mike stated that the website had gotten many hits and hopefully will increase visibility as well as donations.

Motion made, accepted and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report

Comments - General Libby:

Superintendent's Report: Dave Richmond

Project updates:

- 1 Headstone lifting project Civic Center Drive Cemetery:** Several hundred headstones have been lifted since the last meeting. Two different procedures have been tried using varied materials. Mohr & Seredin placed elevation lines at both sights to see just how much they have moved in the spring.
- 2. Upright headstones (Mt Vernon Road only):** Sections A & B have been opened for burials utilizing the upright Marble headstones. Burials are still taking place in Sections H & I for those folks that prefer flat stones.

3. **Crypt Roof Civic Center:** Crypt roof has deteriorated and is being replaced. All Season Roofing is the contractor that has been chosen for this project and should have the job complete by the end of January. The new roofing will be made of metal, but have the appearance of cedar shakes.
4. **Mt. Vernon Road Paving Project:** Ferriaolo Corp. has placed one layer of pavement on the Mt. Vernon Road Walkway and will apply the final layer in the spring. The flag circle paving project will be paid for by the State.
5. **Avenue of Flags Mt. Vernon:** The Elks Club has raised enough money for an avenue of flags. This will be done in the spring.
6. **Repair Projects for Mt. Vernon:** The irrigation for the pond has been fixed so water will be available for watering purposes.

The furnace in the chapel has numerous problems and code violations. The existing boiler will be replaced and other repairs will be made to bring the system up to code.

7. **Rose Garden and Flag Circle Civic Center Drive:** Dave asked members to think about repairing the retaining walls surrounding the rose garden as well as replacing the pavers in the flag circle.
8. **Granite Wall Directories.** Dave asked members to approve the engraving of both granite walls for the year 2007.

Members would like to be recognized for doing that and requested that the name of the Association be placed in a visible area with in the cemetery so families would know that they paid for the engraving. It would be a good way to let folks know who they are and what they do for the cemetery.

Motion made, seconded and passed to pay up to \$11,000 for the Granite Wall engraving at both cemeteries, which will includes recognition of the Association's contribution to the engraving.

Additional niches in Caribou: Additional niches have been added in Caribou. The Committee in Caribou raised \$100,000 for the new niches which left the cost to the State \$35,000.

Bureau Director: Peter Ogden

Peter informed members of the \$95,000,000 shortfall facing state government. There will definitely be budgets cuts. The State has serious issues, but he is optimistic that our department will be left alone.

Peter informed members that the cemetery has leased two one ton diesel dump trucks. Peter feels that this will be a more cost effective way of operating. They will be changed out every four years for new ones.

Peter's is looking at long term solutions to make the operations of the cemeteries more efficient and cost effective for the future.

Peter stated that we need to figure out a cost effective way to lift headstones. Presently, we are trying to come up with an affordable and effective way of lifting them. Spending one million every five years is not cost effective and during budgets cuts and deficits there's no way of knowing if we can afford to keep lifting them from year to year. Peter feels that upright headstones will be better for the MVMCS. They will be easier to maintain and grass will be unable to grow over the names

Peter thanked the Association for all that they do for the cemetery.

Chairman: Gary Laweryson

Marvin had suggested that we get other organizations involved in raising fund for the granite wall engraving. Gary agrees with this idea and feels that they need to establish a big beautification project.

Gary suggested that members try to get the word out to other organizations and place information on the website as well as adding links to other websites. Note each project that has been done as well as ongoing fund raising projects.

Gary suggested that the Governor's Working Group become active again as it had a positive impact on the cemetery.

Fund Raising: Marvin Woodbury

Marvin made many suggestions regarding ways to raise funds. He thinks it's possible to have organizations purchase a section of the granite wall and be recognized for it by the cemetery. He seems to have connections to possible donors' as well.

Vice Chairman's Report: Kenny Ware

Kenny Ware said he received many compliments about the way that the cemetery looked this year. He was pleased with its appearance and said that the crew did an excellent job.

Peter recommended throwing a pizza party for the crew showing their appreciation for all they do.

March 11th at 11o'clock there will be pizza party at the VFW on the Leighton Road for the cemetery crew. Food and drink will be provided by the Association.

New Business

Due to the fact that Mike spent his own money to start the website he asked to be reimbursed for \$118.80.

Motion made, seconded and passed to reimburse Mike for \$118.80.

Unfinished Business:

Meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Motion made, seconded and passed to adjourn meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held March 11, 2007 at 9 a.m. at the VFW Hall on the Leighton Road