

## Minutes of March 14, 2006

### Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Association Meeting

**Call to Order and Roll Call of Members:** The Chairman called the Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll Call was taken as follows: **Present** – David Richmond, Glenda Knowlan, Arthur Roy, Mike Clark, Joe Gilbert, Robert Boggs, Don Simoneau.

**Excused** – Jim Rogers, Peter Ogden, Kelley Wynne, Kenny Ware, General Libby, Robert Weymouth, Natt Cobb.

**Unexcused Absence** –

**Minutes December 2005:** *Motion made, seconded and passed to accept minutes of December 20, 2005 meeting*

#### **Treasurer's Report: Mike Clark**

Mike Clark handed out and reviewed the Annual and Quarterly reports. There was an error in the Quarterly report. Mike will correct the errors and email the corrected pages to members.

*Motion made, accepted to pass the Annual Report and leave open the Quarterly report pending corrections to errors.*

Mike informed members that the sale of flags is going well and there are only four more flags needed for this year.

#### **Comments - Brigadier General Libby:**

General Libby was unable to attend.

#### **Superintendent's Report: Dave Richmond**

Dave gave an update on the results of the working group. He stated that the Governor accepted the funding proposal provided to him from the work group. Due to funding issues in State Government there will be a quick fix this year and hopefully additional staff and funding in the future.

The quick fix would be to approve two positions for the Caribou cemetery, which would free up funds that have been used for staffing purposes over the past three years.

The long term fix would provide the funds to operate the cemeteries without out having to depend on the Association for items not considered as beautification.

Dave informed members of policy change that should go in effect this year allowing the placement of upright markers in new sections. Sections presently being used would continue to be flat granite for uniformity reasons.

### **Mount Vernon Updates:**

The walkway has been extended. A bridge has been put in place and a substantial portion of land has been cleared making room for future placement of monuments. This has increased the length of the walkway considerably. Two of the benches purchased by the Association have been installed there, as well.

Dave informed members that this could not have been accomplished without the assistance of the Kennebec County Jail. They have provided the cemetery with prisoners all winter and many projects have been completed throughout the two cemeteries.

Arthur Roy stated he would like the Association to present a plaque to the Kennebec County Jail. A date and time should be arranged for the presentation and picture taking.

*Motion made, seconded and passed to allow Dave to purchase a plaque for the Kennebec County Jail not to exceed \$100.00*

Several members requested copies of the Executive summary of the Work Group and Dave will attempt to get it placed on the website.

### **Civic Center Updates:**

Dave informed members that the contractor did an excellent job repairing the garden of remembrance. He felt that the Association's dollars were well spent and suggested that they go take a look at it.

The cemetery crew as well as the correctional facility has pruned every tree in the cemetery. This has improved the appearance as well the visibility on corners where there were blind spots.

Arthur asked Dave to find a location for pavers to be placed at Civic Center.

### **Granite Wall Directory Engraving Project:**

Dave requested that the Association provide the funds to have the granite walls engraved this year. At the previous meeting this request was postponed for further discussion to be held at the March meeting.

### **Items Discussed Regarding the Engraving Project:**

Members stated that their Commanders were against it and were afraid that their organizations would refuse to donate yearly funds to the Association if they paid for the engraving.

The general feeling was that it is not beautification and against the By Laws and the responsibility of the State. Others felt that maybe the By Laws should be changed to clarify the definition of beautification.

Others felt if they continue to do so, they would be bailing out the state.

A suggestion was made to have someone attend the Commanders Call meeting and discuss the issue in order to get multiple opinions.

If it was past practice maybe they should go ahead and pay for it and at a later date go to the Legislature and fight for the money and come back for an emergency meeting.

After a lengthy discussion, Arthur Roy asked all members to go back to their Commanders to discuss it further. He asked them to contact him with any feedback they receive and he will attend the Commanders Call, as well.

*Motion made, seconded and passed to have all members get in touch wit their organizations to see if they would be willing to partake in this as a beautification project.*

**Bureau Director: Peter Ogden**

Peter was unable to attend

**Chairman's Report: Arthur Roy**

Arthur discussed many variables regarding beautification and the role of the Cemetery Association.

**Fund Raising: James Rogers**

**Vice Chairman's Report: Joe Gilbert**

He stated that the flag project is doing well.

**New Business**

**Unfinished Business:**

Arthur discussed the results of the year end Audit conducted by Robert Boggs, Joe Gilbert and Kelley Wynne. Everything was in order and balanced.

*Motion made, seconded and passed to accept the year end Audit Report*

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

*Motion made, seconded and passed to adjourn meeting.*

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held at the American Legion, Post 2 at 9 a.m. on June 13, 2006.

**Submitted by:**

*Glenda Knowlan*

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