

DRAFT

Town of Deering Budget Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

23 November 2021

Cemetery and Library

Present:

BAC Members Bob Carter, Stephen Fogelson, Gale Lalmond, Sharon Simpson, Jill Smith, Rebecca Mitchell (BOS Rep), Gary Samuels

Town Administrator Julius Peel

Also Present: Trisha Whisman, (Cemetery Trustee), Betsy Holmes (Library Trustee)

Call to order: 1800

Minutes from 13 November 2021 attendees amended to include Rebecca Mitchell

Cemeteries – Trisha Whisman, cemetery trustee, presented the proposed 2022 Cemetery budget.

The biggest cemetery expense, groundskeeping, will remain at 2022 at \$19,000, unchanged from 2021.

Cemetery trustees lack basic information, including a registry of graves, and deteriorating headstones and other infrastructure.

Cemetery trustees request an increase over the 2021 budget of \$3,000. The portable computer and specific software that they will purchase will enable trustees to physically examine and record gravestones in Deering's cemeteries (\$1,000). Funding will also permit trustees to clean often illegible gravestones (\$300), and maintain gravesites by resetting gravestones that have cracked, sunken or fallen over, and replacing ironwork (\$1,500).

Ms Whisman noted that the cemetery trustees lack records for expenditures for 2021 and that, in general, cemetery records of all sorts, including who is buried where, have not been kept or at best in a haphazard fashion.

Jill Smith noted that two trust funds have been established for cemeteries, one for perpetual care, which is funded by subscription of the owners of grave sites, and an expendable trust fund (currently approx. \$21,000), which is available for maintenance of cemeteries. She suggested that trustees could draw on the maintenance ETF.

Library – Betsy Holmes explained that the primary responsibility of library trustees is to maintain the historic schoolhouse/library, which was designated as a NH Historic Place in 2019. She briefly described plans that trustees have for the building, including installation of a walkway from town hall to the library.

BAC recommended accepting the Cemetery budget as presented.

The library budget will be decreased slightly from 2021 with reductions in software (\$500 reduced to 0) and Community education (\$1,000 reduced to \$500).

BAC recommended accepting the Library budget as presented.

Next meeting – One more meeting of the 2021/2022 BAC is required. The subjects of this meeting will be (1) Warrant Articles, and (2) formulation of BAC recommendations to BOS. It was noted that the role of BAC is to discuss budgets with department heads. Discussion may result in decreases or increases in departmental budget requests. BAC recommends a budget for consideration by BOS, but BOS formulates the final town budget based on additional factors, including State requirements.

Meeting adjourned at 1920

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 30 November, 1800