

Friends of Nunda Cemeteries

Meeting Minutes - March 15, 2009

The spring meeting started at 2:30 PM at the Nunda Historical Society. The program, "Cemetery Development and Expansion," was given by Mr. David Ward of Grever & Ward, a nationally known firm located in Orchard Park, NY that specializes in landscape architecture and cemetery planning. The firm has over 65 years of experience in cemetery work and has served more than 3,000 cemeteries across the United States and Canada. Using many of these cemeteries as examples, Mr. Ward discussed the types of questions and decisions that need to be considered when approaching cemetery preservation or expansion. He brought this home with photos and maps of the five acres being added to Oakwood Cemetery here in Nunda.

After a break for refreshments, a brief business meeting was held. The meeting was called to order by President Tom Cook. Joan Schumaker, Treasurer, reported a bank balance of \$1,494.25 that includes a total of 5 membership renewals and two new memberships for 2008-09. Additional memberships were accepted, resulting in 21 members for 2008-09, including 5 new members.

Tom requested volunteers to serve on the 2008-09 Board of Directors. The following volunteered and were elected to serve: Tom Cook, Philip Cox, Tom Byrnes, Ethel Foster, Charles Ostrum, Joan Schumaker, and Vince Wolcott. The board will be meeting at 1 PM on April 9, 2009.

Tom summarized 2009 activities planned at Oakwood Cemetery as follows: May 16, 9 AM - Noon is spring clean up; planting of flower gardens at entrance and in the former fountain area; special plans for Memorial Day, including carnations, markers and flags for graves of veterans; tours of Oakwood and other cemeteries during the Reunionist's Weekend in August; and completion of locating and recording the graves of veterans in the new section of Oakwood. A date needs to be set for this last project.

Joan Schumaker moved, Charlie Ostrum seconded, and it was approved that we purchase 12 metal markers to replace markers missing from veteran's graves and that these be generic markers except for the Revolutionary War markers. Joan Schumaker moved, Margaret Barkley seconded, and it was approved that we purchase 100 flags made in the US for use on the graves of veterans. These will be used for graves of veterans missed by the other service organizations that place flags on graves.

Regular work sessions on Friday mornings at 9 AM are planned for Oakwood beginning Friday, April 3. The need for chain saw work to remove a problem tree will be accessed on the 3rd.

It was noted that that the Oakwood Cemetery Association would be holding their annual meeting in April or May and that everyone should plan on attending. Topics to be referred to the Association include the need for "No Thru Traffic" signs at the entrances to Oakwood and perhaps a locked gate or chain at the west entrance to help restrict traffic. A major topic that needs to go before the Association is the need for planning for the new addition to Oakwood. Today's speaker noted that three to five years are needed to plan and prepare before a new cemetery addition is ready to be used.

Joan Schumaker reported that the Western New York Association of Historical Agencies is planning a Cemetery Records/Gravestone Repair Workshop in August.

Tom thanked Margaret Barkley and Kathy Macomber for providing refreshments and the meeting adjourned around 4:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan Schumaker,
Acting Secretary

