



TRUSTEES OF CEMETERIES

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Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 1, 2012, 7pm
Gilmanton Academy
503 Province Road

Present: Trustees Marion McIntyre, Candace Daigle and Leonard (JR) Stockwell, Jr.

Sanborn Cemetery: JR reported that he had talked with Linda Radue and Kevin McCaffrey regarding their interest in helping with the upkeep of Sanborn Cemetery. He will visit the site with them and go over the work they'd like to do.

Budget: The Trustees reviewed the budget including the Expendable Trust Fund.

Beech Grove Cemetery:

Proposals for wall work were received from Kevin Fife (\$8,000) and Dean Hancock (\$9,600), both not including stone

MOTION: On a motion by JR, seconded by Marion, it was voted unanimously to authorize Kevin Fife to proceed with constructing approximately 265' of wall along the northeast side of the Beech Grove cemetery. (3-0)

Candace will research the owner of the abutting lot and write to let him know about the upcoming work, asking about access over his lower driveway. She will give JR the contact info.

The scheduled lane tree work was completed by ArborTech.

Gravestones: Candace will list the found Edgerly stone in the NHCA newsletter to see if it may come from another part of NH. The Trustees discussed the issue of gravestones that are not erected on a grave. Currently:

1. Carl has one unknown (Janet Iola, 1953-1953, block form stone),
2. Marion has two that are duplicates to stones in Smith Meetinghouse (Candace will call and offer to Fred Buchholz,
3. JR has one unknown (Andrew H. Edgerly son of John and Tamson Edgerly d. July 1, 1848 15 yrs 2 mo 16 days); found by Richard Barr, October 2011, in the shed behind the Edgerly house on Province Road; house was taken down about 15 years ago,
4. there are stones on the wall at Buzzell – footstones (EG, DL, LC, MB, JB; also top of broken grave stone (Mrs. Mary Sm? 1788),
5. there are stones on the wall at Wiggins home on Rte 140
6. there are stones on the wall behind Bedards.

MOTION: On a motion by Marion, seconded by Candace, it was voted unanimously to adopt the attached policy related to gravestones and to amend the Regulations to reflect this policy. (3-0)

Buzzell: The Trustees agreed to close from sale/occupancy the first grave in each row on the west end of the easterly lots (lots #151, 161, 171, 181, 191, 201, 211, 221, 231, 241, 251, 261, 271) as they extend out into what appears to be the driveway based on the gate location. Don Ouellette has agreed to move his lots to accommodate the change and the Trustees will prepare the paperwork.

Candace reported the lot sale to Dussault had been completed and that driveway markers are still necessary to keep funeral vehicles from driving over unsold lots.

Unnamed Cemetery: JR reported a discussion stating there was a cemetery at the corner of Allens Mill and Shellcamp Roads. He reported seeing bases there some years ago. Candace will check the title records.

Osgood Cemetery: The Trustees discussed a letter received from Thomas Howe in answer to a letter from the Trustees asking to obtain an easement to the Osgood Cemetery.

MOTION: On a motion by Candace, seconded by JR it was voted unanimously to proceed with the outlined process to obtain the easement if it can be done within the current year's budget. (3-0)

Hatch Road: JR reported that he wanted to complete a cleanup of the Hatch Road Cemetery this year. He reported there is a large tree that has fallen and needs to be cut up along with other cleanup work. This is a cemetery that has no marked stones. It was shown to JR by Bob Potter.

JR introduced himself to the owner of the property abutting the Hatch Road Cemetery and asked about crossing her property to do some cleanup work in the cemetery. The owner agreed; however, upon returning a couple of weeks later to begin the work the owner apparently changed her mind.

Candace will request that the Selectmen contact the owner and try to lay out a ROW to access the cemetery a few times this year to clean it up and then once a year in the future. The request would be to cross her property, not including parking on same, through a break in the stonewall, then straight to the cemetery, some 100'. This year's work would be to clean out some small trees, cut up the large tree with the use of a chain saw, rake the leaves and dispose of the leaves over the rear wall which is a forested area. The cemetery is not active, so there would be no increase in access necessary for burials. JR would be glad to call ahead when he is going to work at the site.

Geocaching: The Trustees discussed that geocaches have been placed in some of the cemeteries in this and other communities. In the opinion of the Trustees, geocaching is not in accordance with the Rules and the intent to maintain these sites in a dignified manner.

MOTION: On a motion by Marion, seconded by JR it was voted unanimously to adopt the attached policy on geocaching and to amend the Regulations to reflect this policy. (3-0)

Weed Cemetery: Candace informed the Trustees that they should request that the Selectmen go through the abandoned cemetery process for the Weed Cemetery. It had not been identified at the time the Selectmen completed the last such process. The stone etching has been completed.

Regulation Amendments:

1. In the next reprint of the Regulations, Besse Cemetery should now be identified as a municipal cemetery.
2. Section 6 regulating geocaching
3. Include Weed (once abandoned)

Copp Cemetery: The downed tree was taken care of by ArborTech, along with part of another tree that had weakened.

Unknown site, Meadow Pond Road: JR has not been able to contact the owner of the property to discuss a possible burial on the site. He will contact John Manning to see if John might have a contact method.

Mack Stone: Candace will provide pictures of the newly erected Mack stone in Beech Grove for Marion's record.

Respectfully Submitted,



Candace L. Daigle, Trustee

Policy on Unknown or Duplicate Gravestones

This policy is adopted by the Gilmanton Cemetery Trustees to direct the disposition of any grave monument, stone, marker, delineator, or other appurtenance that is not erected on an occupied or unoccupied grave and is found by, comes to the notice of or comes into the possession of the Cemetery Trustees. These items have often been found placed on the walls of older cemeteries or have been turned into the Trustees by people who have found them away from burial grounds.

In accordance with RSA 289:14-a,V, the purpose of this Policy, is to protect from loss, provide accessibility to, and honor these irreplaceable gravesite markers.

1. The Trustees shall first undertake thorough research of all available records to determine the grave or site to which the grave monument, stone, marker, delineator, or other appurtenance is related. If located, the item shall be appropriately returned to that grave or site. The research may include public notice of the item being researched and/or contact to possible descendants.
2. If the grave monument, stone, marker, delineator, or other appurtenance is found to be a duplicate to an existing grave monument, stone, marker, delineator, or other appurtenance that is appropriately erected on the related grave, the duplicate item shall be placed in a permanent repository within the cemetery in which the related grave is located. As these items are duplicates of the accessible items, such repository may be underground in a section of the cemetery clearly identified in the cemetery records for such disposition.
3. If the grave monument, stone, marker, delineator, or other appurtenance is found to be related to a known burial in a specific cemetery, but the location of that grave within the cemetery is unknown, the item shall be erected in a section of the cemetery where found clearly identified in the cemetery records for such disposition. Erecting these items aboveground will maintain the availability of these items for future memorialization and identification.
4. If the grave monument, stone, marker, delineator, or other appurtenance is found within a known cemetery or burial ground, but there is no record of a related burial found in that or any other Gilmanton cemetery or burial ground, the item shall be erected in a section of the cemetery where found clearly identified in the cemetery records for such disposition. Erecting these items aboveground will maintain the availability of these items for future memorialization and identification.
5. If the grave monument, stone, marker, delineator, or other appurtenance cannot be related to any name, record or burial in Gilmanton, the item shall be erected in a section of a cemetery clearly identified in the cemetery records for such disposition. Erecting these items aboveground will maintain the availability of these items for future memorialization and identification.

In all required instances:

1. written authorization of the Board of Selectmen shall be obtained (RSA 635:6,I);
2. notice shall be made to the NH Division of Historical Resources (RSA 635:6,II);
3. complete records of these items including research results and final disposition shall be kept by the Cemetery Trustees, copied to the Board of Selectmen and made available for public review (RSA 635:6,II).

Policy on Geocaching

This policy is adopted by the Gilmanton Cemetery Trustees for the protection of cemetery lot owners and cemeteries, burial grounds and historic sites under the management of the Trustees.

The purposes of the cemeteries and burial grounds under the care and management of the Trustees is for the interment of the dead and as a peaceful, dignified, safe and beautiful area as well as a reverent symbol of respect for the dead and a valuable link to the heritage of the community. The purpose of historic sites is to protect sites within the community that memorialize deeds, sites, and people that have been important to Gilmanton through its history.

Geocaching, by its nature causes some item or mark to be left behind, often times hidden in and among the walls, structures and markers of the site, and encourages others to search for and “find” that item or mark.

Therefore, the Trustees find that Geocaching is a recreational use that is not compatible to the purpose of the cemetery, burial and historic sites or to the allowed uses of those sites by the living and have amended the Gilmanton Cemetery Regulations to prohibit Geocaching in all cemeteries, burial grounds and historic sites under their management.