



TRUSTEES OF CEMETERIES

Post Office Box 119

Gilmanton, New Hampshire 03237-0119

cemeteries@metrocast.net

(603) 387-1109

www.newgilmantonnh.org



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

We were prepared to begin our report with the observation that your cemetery staff, Paul Lines and Karen Stockwell, have again done an outstanding job in the cemeteries this year; and that the weather cooperated to allow for a full fall cleanup, making spring mowing much easier. *However*, the Region has suffered another damaging snow and ice storm. Trees are leaning, broken, and downed. Without doubt the difficult cleanup will continue throughout the spring. The 2021 year will be another *year of trees* for cemetery and other town staff as well as the community as a whole. Such is life in the rural Northeast!

2020 year:

- Arbor Tech completed difficult tree trimming and removal in the Beech Grove Cemetery.
- TurfPro installed granite posts at Buzzell Cemetery to delineate the interior driveway and protect adjacent graves.
- TurfPro completed the reclamation of the recently identified Indian burial ground off Rte 129.
- Dan Adel Signs has designed and installed consistently designed name signs Beech Grove and Sleeper.
- Staff finalized the erection of regulation signs, necessary to enforce applicable regulations and laws.
- There was no resolution of the 2019 thefts and damage. The lone remaining historic gate at Friends cemetery was removed and placed in the protective care of the Gilmanton Historical Society.
- Security cameras are being used at selected sites.
- A very generous donation to the care fund of the Foss cemetery was received from Mrs. Lois Foss.
- Ayers Crypt was memorialized on a proposed subdivision plan.
- Sites experienced groundcover damage from wild turkeys and weeds, partially the result of the drought.
- No lots were sold this year, there was one inurnment and one new monument installed.
- NH Cemetery Assoc workshops were not held this year so no additional outside training occurred.



Buzzell Cemetery Posts



Sanborn Cemetery



Indian Cemetery

Upcoming Projects:

- Tree trimming and/or removal will top 2021's maintenance.
- Wall, gravestone and gate, repair, maintenance and installations as necessary.
- Gravestone restoration work in Tibbetts and Merrill Cemeteries; a descendant's generous donation for the Merrill work will be deposited into the cemetery care fund.
- Erection of additional site name signs where necessary.
- Find rightful homes for orphan stones in our possession.
- Weed treatment as necessary to maintain a sufficient ground cover.
- Prepare and post cemetery records for on-line access.
- Develop Trustee Handbook.
- Work with Probate Court to simplify lot ownership process.

The Trustees Wish to Thank:

- Our wonderful maintenance staff, Sexton/Groundskeeper Paul Lines and Groundskeeper Karen Stockwell.
- The Selectmen, Budget Committee and Voters of the Town of Gilmanton for their continued support for the protection of these important sites.
- Road Agent Paul Perkins for his assistance during the year
- The Gilmanton Historical Society for assisting in history and genealogy inquiries and hosting tours of community cemeteries encouraging appreciation of these unique heritage sites.
- Neighbors of cemetery and historic sites who help keep them safe and cleared, allow us access over their property and keep watchful eyes on these important community sites.
- The American Legion Auxiliary, Gilmanton Ellis-Geddes-Levitt Unit #102 for "Veterans at Rest in Gilmanton". This project attempts to locate and inventory the site of every Veteran buried in Gilmanton. The list is available at <https://www.gilmantonnhhistory.org/organizationsmilitary.asp> They request help to provide the name and location of any era Veteran buried in Gilmanton. Contact the Auxiliary at P.O. Box 119, Gilmanton, NH 03237-0119, or info to ALA102@metrocast.net.
- All the wonderful contractors who, by their careful work, acknowledge the importance of these community sites and honor the memory of the people buried within.

The Primary Duty and Goal of the Trustees is to insure the protection and maintenance of all sites now and in perpetuity. We believe that will occur only by achieving financial security for our cemeteries in the form of private donations into cemetery care funds. Those donations are invested and produce annual income that can only be used for the maintenance and protection of these sites. However, only 13 of the 38 managed sites have any care funds, and only 6 are sufficient to cover their annual costs. Most care funds are restricted for use only in one cemetery. But the income from the recently established McIntyre Family Fund can be used for all of the 38 sites. But for now, the total care fund annual income covers an average of only 37% of the annual costs. The balance is paid by taxpayers.

In recent years, as awareness of this issue has spread, additional donations into these funds have begun. Such donations are the only reasonable method to reach financial independence and minimize or eliminate the need for taxpayer participation.

For this reason, we encourage everyone to consider a donation, regardless of amount, which will be deposited with, and invested by the Gilmanton Trustees of Trust Funds. Donations can occur directly or

through your estate planning process. The annual income from such donations will be available to the Cemetery Trustees for the cemeteries. Donations to the Town for the care of Cemeteries are deductible under IRS Codes section 170(a)(1) and 170(c)(1). See Cemetery Fund Donations (<https://www.gilmantonnh.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf4451/f/uploads/donations.pdf>). We thank you for your consideration of this option.

Please remember, if you plan future burials in a plot obtained prior to 1990, please confirm with us now that our records are correct as to who can be buried in your plot. The Trustees are strictly constrained by law as to who may be buried in a plot for which there are no records (sadly the situation for most of the sites as they became the responsibility of the Town after lots had been transferred). Do not wait until a burial is imminent to do this. Contact any of the Trustees below or e-mail directly to us at cemeteries@metrocast.net. Please also feel free to contact us at any time. We are happy to receive your information and comments and respond to your inquiries.

Very Respectfully Submitted,

Candace Daigle
(603) 387-1109

Leonard (JR) Stockwell, Jr.
(603) 267-7502

John Dickey
(603) 267-6098