



TRUSTEES OF CEMETERIES

Post Office Box 119

Town of Gilmanton, New Hampshire 03237-0119

cemeteries@metrocast.net www.gilmantonnh.org

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



As Cemetery Trustees we greatly enjoy working to help preserve the history and heritage of our community including cemeteries and some of our Historic Sites. It's interesting and rewarding; although not too often "surprising" and "exciting", the 2015 year proved to be both!

In March we found that during the winter the granite lintel stone at the Town Pound was knocked off its anchor pins and was in danger of toppling off the granite gate supports. This 700lb stone was more than our staff could handle and we began discussing how to approach repairs; an unexpected expense. On April 9th we reached out to Mark Morrill, then Principal Engineer at NH DOT District 3. We found that Mr. Morrill and Maintenance Supervisor Roger Lamontagne were already aware of the damage. Not only was the stone perfectly reset on April 10th, but response from both Mr. Morrill and Mr. Lamontagne was immediate, comprehensive and showed an outstanding amount of respect for this historic structure. We were surprised and thankful that this major repair was done quickly at no expense to the Town.

The structure of the Town Pound is owned by the Town, but is located on property owned by the Cegelski family. In the fall, we participated in the review and public hearing for the Cegelski property subdivision. We requested either a protective easement or the land under the Pound be deeded to the Town to protect it in perpetuity. We were excited and surprised by Mr. Cegelski's generosity in offering, at no cost to the Town, both the land under the pound as well as a 50' protective easement around the Pound. Such a wonderful gift to protect this wonderful site!

In 2015, the Trustees felt it necessary to reevaluate the employment status of our staff. We have been very fortunate over many years to have found local residents who have a strong respect for the cemeteries and provide caring maintenance. Historically they were paid as independent contractors, but this form of employment fails to protect our staff or the Town. Additionally we no longer have a source to obtain commercial gasoline in Town and also are receiving requests to increase our level of maintenance. As a result, we worked with the Board of Selectmen and their staff to convert our staff to part-time seasonal employees. We were also fortunate to find two young men who were available to give us additional maintenance assistance. Lastly, Road Agent Perkins will allow us to obtain fuel from the Highway Department fuel tanks from our budget. We are excited that these positive changes will act to better stabilize our work and budgeting for upcoming years.

During 2015 Trustees and staff:








Completed the sale of six graves at Beech Grove Cemetery and laid out lot for installation of corner posts







Continued support for the American Legion Auxiliary Ellis-Geddes-Levitt Gilmanton Unit

#102 on their "*Veterans at Rest in Gilmanton*". This project attempts to locate and inventory the site of every Veteran buried in Gilmanton. The Auxiliary continues to request the help of residents to provide the name and location of any era Veteran buried in Gilmanton. See more at www.alanh102.org/page8.html or contact the Auxiliary at P.O. Box 119, Gilmanton, NH 03237-0119, or ALA102@metrocast.net.





-  Provided information for a private cemetery and documented one new private burial ground
-  Laid out site location for headstone installation and one full burial at Beech Grove Cemetery
-  Attended NH Cemetery Association and NH DRA workshops
-  Contracted with ArborTech for the removal and trimming of trees at the Friends Cemetery
-  Cleaned brush and trees along walls at the Beech Grove Cemetery

Upcoming projects:

-  Install granite posts across the new section of the Buzzell Cemetery to delineate the access drive
-  Post information/regulation signs at cemetery sites
-  Draft Trustee Handbook
-  Work with Probate Court to simplify lot ownership process

We also have a very exciting opportunity scheduled for spring of 2016; an exploration of the Hilliard burial ground through the use of ground penetrating radar equipment operated by a Maine company, funded by a descendant (Ladd) who hopes to find evidence of ancestor burials. It will be very interesting to see what can be determined and Trustees will be present to make sure that no unpermitted disturbance occurs to the site.

The Trustees wish to thank:

-  Our wonderful maintenance staff, Carl Moorehead and Paul Lines; and beginning this year Alec Carpenter and Ayden Ernst, for their great work!
-  The Selectmen and Voters of the Town of Gilmanton for their continued support for the protection of these important sites
-  Richard Foss for his continued support of the Foss Cemetery maintenance
-  Neighbors to many of the sites who remove brush and limbs, allow access over their property and keep a watchful eye on these important community sites

Additional information on sites, including available lots can be accessed on the Town website. Please contact us at any time with your information, questions or comments.

Very Respectfully Submitted,

Candace Daigle
(603) 267-8274

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

John Dickey
(603) 267-6098