



TRUSTEES OF CEMETERIES

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ANNUAL REPORT - 2023



The Trustees sadly acknowledge the December 21, 2022, passing of Carl E. Moorehead, and dedicate this report to the man who single-handedly maintained all town-managed cemeteries from 1996 to 2015. Carl served as President of the private Beech Grove Cemetery Association from 1999-2008 and was instrumental in the Town's adoption of the cemetery when the Association closed. Carl continued to provide us with support and direction even after his retirement in 2019. He worked closely with families and contractors and had the most remarkable memory and knowledge of the sites. He knew every grave, every marker, and many fascinating stories of those buried within. His work in, and respect for those sites surpassed "maintenance" and created a level of "care" that is a benchmark for us today. His work was a true reflection of his life values. The annual income from the many donations received in Carl's memory is available to maintain and protect all the sites Carl cared for so much.

The Trustee's efforts to protect cemetery records and processes for the future as changes occur in elected members, made great strides forward this year. Two alternate trustees were appointed to assist with the ever-growing list of duties. We welcomed Adam Mini and Dan Redin, each for the limited allowed 1-year term, and their skills are a tremendous addition to our group. The Trustees have no administrative staff, so it is imperative that more Trustees share their institutional knowledge to protect it from being lost during election transitions. At our request, the Selectmen will place an article on the 2024 warrant asking voters to authorize the expansion of the number of elected Trustees from three to five giving us additional Trustees having this knowledge. To further provide for succession, all digitized records will soon be housed on the town's server with remote access available to the Trustees.



This year we held two workshops taught by John Lord of NH Old Graveyard Association, one on gravestone cleaning and one on repairs. Extremely informative, he provided us with the skills to reach a new level of care for the 38 sites that we manage. As a result, all the stones in Friends were initially cleaned along with 40 stones in Beech Grove, expending over 100 manhours to date. The Lizzie Folsom stone is an ideal example of the results. More than a dozen gravestones in Tibbetts were also repaired. More people are volunteering to be trained by Trustee Redin and Volunteer Program Coordinator Vinnie Baiocchetti. Their work can be viewed on the Gilmanton Gravestone Cleaners Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/gilmantongravestone/>. Those interested in joining, can leave a message on Facebook or email us below. You'll be contacted in the spring when they resume. Volunteer applications are also available on our website above.

Also, during this year:

- There were five interments in two cemeteries.
- John Dickey, President of The Gilmanton Historical Society gave a fun and informative walking tour of the Beech Grove cemetery in August.
- Seven more site signs are ready to be set in the spring (Besse, Emerson, Mudgett, Parsons, Sanborn, Town Pound, and Wilson Hill). The Wilson Hill sign is donated by the Kelley Family.
- Accumulated silt along the frontage of Tibbetts cemetery from heavy rain events was cured by staff and NH DOT. Some of the material will be left in the low area to level and vegetate that section.
- Parking at Beech Grove was expanded with several spaces added along the lane and an area leveled

inside the cemetery.

- A two-year project was completed to rehab the Ayers Crypt. Hannah L. Ayers, age 20, died April 21, 1836. Her crypt is adjacent to Hillside Cemetery. We had wonderful cooperation from the neighbors to this project and they continue to care for and watch over her site.



Upcoming:

- Improve Buzzell driveway access by removing rocks and placing ledge-pack.
- Protect gravestones at Tibbetts by trimming deadwood and removing dead trees.
- Clean and repair additional gravestones.
- Erect additional site name signs.
- Host the Historical Society 2024 cemetery walking tour at Buzzell cemetery.
- Budget appropriation request for 2024 includes additional supply money for stone cleaning and repairs and a 4% COLA for our part-time grounds maintenance staff.
- Develop Trustee Handbook.

The Trustees Wish to Thank:

- Our staff, Paul Lines and Karen Stockwell, and our growing number of trained volunteers.
- The Selectmen, Town Staff, Budget Committee, Trust Fund Trustees and Voters for their assistance and support.
- The Road Agent and our assorted contractors for their skilled assistance.
- The Historical Society for assisting in inquiries and introducing residents to these beautiful sites through their cemetery walking tours.
- Neighbors of cemeteries who help keep them safe and allow us access over their property.
- The American Legion Post #102 Gilmanton Ellis-Geddes-Levitt who annually place flags on the graves of veterans and the Legion Auxiliary Unit for their "Veterans at Rest in Gilmanton" an inventory of Veterans buried in Gilmanton (bit.ly/3vcwsY5).

THANK
YOU!

The Duty and Goal of the Trustees is to ensure the protection and care of all sites now and in perpetuity by achieving financial security for our cemeteries. Annual income from funds is available for maintenance and protection of these sites, but currently covers only an average of 37% of the annual costs. The balance is generously supplemented by taxpayers.

Donations to the funds are the only reasonable method to minimize or eliminate the need for tax dollars. We encourage everyone to consider a donation, in any amount. Donations can occur directly or through your estate planning process and are deductible under IRS Codes section 170(a)(1) and 170(c)(1). See Gilmanton Cemetery Donations (bit.ly/473uZ3J). We thank you for your consideration of this option.

Lastly, if your burial plot was obtained prior to 1990, please confirm with us now that we have records as to who can be buried there. 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 sites as they came to the Town with no records). Do not wait until a burial is imminent. Contact any of the Trustees below for this or any other question or comment or e-mail directly to us at cemeteries@gilmantonnh.org.

Very Respectfully Submitted,

Candace Daigle	Leonard Stockwell, Jr.	John Dickey	Adam Mini	Dan Redin	Paul Lines, Sexton
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