



TRUSTEES OF CEMETERIES

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Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 23, 2020 - 7pm

Gilmanton Academy

503 Province Road, Gilmanton, NH

Present: Trustees Candace Daigle, Leonard (JR) Stockwell, Jr. and John Dickey; staff Sexton Paul Lines.

Approval of Minutes -September 15, 2020

MOTION: On a motion by J. Dickey, seconded by JR Stockwell, it was voted unanimously to adopt the minutes of September 15, 2020, as written. (3-0) (The posted 10/29/20 meeting for Buzzell post installation was cancelled)

Site Reports

1. **Ayers Crypt** - Final plans not submitted to Planning Board yet.
2. **Beech Grove**
 - A. Contracted tree work completed and paid \$5,600.
 - B. Dugal headstone installed.
 - C. Hodgdon stone not repaired-followed up. They'll do in spring.
3. **Buzzell**
 - A. New posts in-great job. There was an additional \$599 above the quote included in the invoice due to ground and soils conditions encountered. Members had viewed the site during construction.

MOTION: On a motion by J. Dickey, seconded by JR Stockwell, it was voted unanimously to pay an additional \$599 for this work due to unforeseen ground and soils conditions encountered. (3-0)
 - B. New posts have been located to be put on plan. Pins have been located, relocated, and some new installed to also be put on map.
 - C. Candace noted that the Trustees decision to not sell lots 141, 142, & 143 was not reflected in the minutes at that time. The decision was made because those lots fell directly in front of the pedestrian gate installed by the Association prior to Buzzell's transfer to the Town.

MOTION: On a motion by JR Stockwell, seconded by J. Dickey, Lots #141, #142 & #143 in the new section of Buzzell Cemetery shall not be transferred out. (3-0)
 - D. Mr. Ouellette's corner stones have been relocated and Rights to Inter documents have been sent to him to sell 171 back to the Town and to purchase 173.
 - E. Weed control should be scheduled for next year. JR will check with Turfpro so we're on their schedule.
4. **French** – Paul was bitten by the Wagner's dog when exiting his truck to work at the French Cemetery. The dog also charged K. Stockwell. All appropriate injury forms were completed and he was seen by his physician. It has healed. Candace spoke with Mr. Wagner. He was very sorry the incident occurred and agreed wholeheartedly with Paul's

- suggestion that, in the future, staff drive out into the field to the cemetery when coming in for maintenance.
5. **Hilliard** - inspected by JR. No evidence of stones or pipe as shown on plan.
 6. **Indian** – Turfpro has completed the post installation and clearing. Mr. Price will walk the site with JR next week to determine location for chain and reflectors. Quote previously approved is for \$4,500.
 7. **Lougee**
 - A. Paul reported he has removed the wooden gate that was falling apart. The apparent pressure-treated posts remain. The Trustees agreed that the gate will not be replaced at this time. Paul will monitor access and report if he feels a gate should be installed.
 - B. Paul reported Mr. Downing, the abutter, is having some very large trees abutting the cemetery taken down and asked if the Trustees wanted one large ash inside the walls to be taken at the same time. Paul told him that the logger would need to provide an insurance certificate. The Trustees agreed to the removal and agreed that insurance was necessary. JR will discuss with Mr. Downing.
 8. **Merrill** - Mr. Beede's evaluation, quote and replacement gate outstanding. John received a message in response to his August phone call. Mr. Beede indicated he was very busy but would call if he had any time this year. John will try again very early next spring. If we are unable to have him go to Merrill, we will investigate another contractor. We do have a donation offer for the stone work.
 9. **Sanborn** – trail was opened without disturbance and the site has been cleared out. We will continue to try to contact owner to get easement for access. Future intent is to have stones reset although their original locations aren't clear.
 10. **Tibbetts**
 - A. Mr. Beede's work outstanding at \$2,200. If we are unable to get him to return we will need to investigate other contractors.
 - B. Discussion about the difficulty maintaining this site. There are new abutters. We might be able to gain access at the top through their property but even with access a mower is practically unusable due to the number of small stones in the site. It's basically a weed-trimming job. The low point which was cleaned out by Sanville earlier this year filled back in but was easier to clean out.

Other Project Reports

1. **2020 Maintenance Season Comments** – Paul reported on the 2020 season. It was a good season; plenty of time in the fall to clear out leaves, in some sites more than once. There was also sufficient time to get/keep everything well mowed.

Foss is a site that takes extra time for access. Paul installed a new rack on the rear of his 4-wheeler to better carry in more equipment. There's a big birch down in Foss. They'll have to wait a while for it to decay in order to remove it.

Tibbetts, as discussed, takes more time as it can't really be mowed but doesn't grow heavy grass. The front hill is primarily blueberry bushes.

This year they did get the mower into Wilson Hill. The owners have left him an access for his pickup and trailer. Mowing it has been much easier since the stones have all been

uprighted. There are no new stones down this year.

They did not do Carr this year. It's overrun with poison ivy and Paul has gotten it the last couple of times he's gone in. Since K. Stockwell is very susceptible he doesn't want her going in either. He is going to try and go in very early next spring. Trustees discussed herbicide, but JR isn't sure the property owner will want that near their crops.

JR noted that the Durrell Cemetery at the Bedards could be added to our maintenance list. Paul will give Steve Bedard a call and ask if they mind if we go up maybe once or twice a year to weed out.

2. **Ash Trees** - The Town Administrator has asked what amount will be necessary to address removal of Ash trees in/abutting cemeteries. Staff has been looking at Ash trees in sites. There are two in Lougee. None around Hillside. Candace asked Courtney Kelley to give us a ball-park number for Beech Grove which seems to have the largest number of Ash trees especially along and abutting the driveway. The number is due this week. The Trustees discussed the matter. The estimate will be forwarded to the Town Administrator. If funded, it will start the removal of dead/dying Ash trees over the next few years.
3. **Site Locating/Marking Equipment** – The Trustees discussed the current difficulty in laying out new graves for sale in Buzzell. There are over 400 graves in the new section and only some exterior pins. Candace suggested strategically placing some iron spikes with numbered aluminum discs that could be used in the future. In addition, she suggested the purchase of a magnetic locator which can be used to find pins, urns, etc. in Buzzell and other sites. The estimate for the locator and sufficient numbered spikes for Buzzell is approximately \$2,000. The Trustees will discuss again in the spring.
4. **Site name signs** – Dan is moving forward on two signs with our final specs - smaller date font, routed, painted, steel post dark green. Paint will probably need touching up in 8-10 years. Previously approved quote is \$490 per sign. A 50% deposit has been paid on Beech Grove & Sleeper signs. Candace will contact Dan to see if the signs/bill will be available prior to year-end and whether they will be installed this year.
5. **Regulation signs** - have been installed at all sites chosen by the Trustees.
6. **Website** - We now have access to the Cemetery pages on the Town's website. Will update as needed.
7. **Documents** – Documents are slowly being made available to members in electronic form. Additional files will be added.
8. **Annual Report** – Report is due to Town Hall by December 21st. A draft will be distributed for comment and corrections.

Budget

1. **Current Year**
 - A. Reviewed status including additional bills expected prior to year-end.
 - B. C. Daigle requested annual reimbursement.
MOTION: On a motion by J. Dickey, seconded by JR Stockwell it was voted unanimously to reimburse C. Daigle \$54.44 for a 100' measuring tape, 1 roll of orange flagging and 1 case of copy paper. (3-0)
 - C. Outstanding bills included in this review included Turfpro-Indian Burial Ground,

Adel Signs-balance on 2 signs and above reimbursement. There may be additional bills prior to year-end such as any further maintenance hours and recording costs for Ouellette transfers.

- D. Anticipated year-end budget balance to be transferred into the Expendable Trust Fund is \$1,341.67.
- E. Expended this year from the Expendable Trust Fund - \$5,829 – Buzzell posts, Indian burial ground, Sleeper sign.
- F. Expended this year from General and Perpetual Care Funds - \$8,406.94 for groundskeeping maintenance, Beech Grove trees and sign.
- 2. **Encumbered Funds** – Mr. Beede-Tibbetts-\$2,200.
- 3. **2021 Budget Year**
 - A. **Budget Appropriation Request** increased by \$1,867 for wages, wage expenses and wage-related groundskeeping.
 - B. **Tree Fund** - The Selectmen have recommended starting a tree removal fund to address the dying/dead Ash Tree issue. They will propose the fund to the Budget Committee based on a number to be provided by the Trustees for the Beech Grove site after consultation with an arborist.
 - C. **Budget Committee** - Cemetery presentation not yet scheduled.

Other Business

1. **Adjournment**

MOTION: On a motion by JR Stockwell, seconded by J. Dickey, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:58pm. (3-0)

Respectfully Submitted,



Candace L. Daigle, Trustee