



TRUSTEES OF CEMETERIES

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 1, 2018, 7pm

Gilmanton Academy

503 Province Road

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

Minutes:

MOTION: On a motion by JR Stockwell, seconded by C. Daigle, it was voted unanimously to adopt the minutes of March 1, 2018, as written. (3-0)

Reports:

1. Sleeper: P. Lines removed downed tree in Sleeper. Luckily it fell across the stonewall but did not hit any gravestones. There remains an abutting birch that may not survive alone.
2. Hilliard: Mr. Ladd answered our inquiry to say the orange markers used during the ground-penetrating radar project can be removed if they're in the way; but he asked we maintain the six or so black markers as they mark possible headstones to be investigated. P. Lines noted they are not troublesome to maintenance, he was just wondering if they were to be retained. J. Dickey suggested maintaining the orange markers as they were used to designate what the technician felt was the head of each grave and it would be nice to leave them even though we have a map. P. Lines noted he can keep them at ground level and it should not be a problem. C. Daigle noted probing at the black markers might be interesting.
3. Annual Report: The annual cemetery report was included in the Town Report. The next Annual Report should urge people to confirm ownership of lots now in which they plan to have subsequent interments to alleviate some of the last-minute problems that can occur when ownership isn't easily determined.
4. Lot Sales/Interment: C. Daigle reported that right-to-inter cremation grave #481 at Buzzell was transferred to Donald Leclair. It is the first cremation grave to be sold. The grave has been laid out for the monument company and initially checked for ledge. The soils are bony, but no ledge evident. Any assumption that there was ledge in that area may be in error. The monument company will also fully probe. The funds have been turned over to the Town (\$100) and Trust Fund Trustees for the Buzzell General Care Fund (\$300). Mr. Leclair's monument company, Perry Brothers Monument Co (recently purchased by Mark Hubbard, Dignified Cemetery Services, LLC, who has provided grave openings for us for many years) contacted JR Stockwell about the Leclair stone. They wanted to know if they can go a little higher with the stone because it's one stone for two people and it's just the base they're adding. Trustees agreed and Mr. Hubbard will make sure they utilize the one stone for the two proposed interments. Mr. Hubbard will also be providing and setting the corner stones so that fee was not charged by us to Mr. Leclair.
5. Wilson Hill donation: C. Daigle reported that Mr. Douglas Cumins, who with his family came to locate Nathaniel Wilson's grave, has donated \$1,875 to establish a Wilson Hill Cemetery General Care Fund as earlier arranged by J. Dickey. Mr. Cumins' mother is a

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MINUTES ISSUED IN DRAFT-SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT/ADOPTION AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING-MINUTES AVAILABLE May 2, 2018

member of the DAR through her lineage to Nathaniel. She also has worked as a volunteer at one of the Revolutionary War National Parks. Nathaniel's stone was upright, but two family members' stones were down. Mr. Cumins donation was acknowledging the Trustee's commitment to straighten and upright all gravestones in that site (hopefully this year although that depends on Mr. Beede's schedule). The Trustees suggested his donation establish a general care fund towards our goal of making the sites more self-sufficient in the future. He readily agreed with J. Dickey's suggestion for his donation which has been forwarded to the Selectmen for acceptance and then to the Trust Fund Trustees for deposit. This is another outstanding example of descendants helping to provide for the perpetual care of a cemetery. Every deposit into a general care fund is a step forward toward that goal. P. Lines will assure that Nathaniel's grave will be added to the list of Veterans where a flag is placed each year by the Legion.

6. Training: C. Daigle reported on her attendance at the spring meeting of the NH Cemetery Association who one last time was hosting Terry Knowles from the NH Attorney General's Office. She is retiring as of May 1st and will be very sorely missed by all. She previously shared notes with the members. At the meeting C. Daigle met with the representative from Crowne Vault company and learned more about poly vaults; an alternative to concrete; more easily handled and utilized. If the Trustees are interested in making these available to clients they can purchase some to have available. They must be purchased by the case; three single urn vaults in one case for \$115.50 and/or two double urn vaults in one case for \$119. The Trustees felt this would be a good alternative to families instead of direct burial of urns as they provide protection to the urn, avoid slumping of the grave, and would be easily located in the future whether for purposes of adding another urn to the existing vault or to avoid for an adjacent burial. C. Daigle will check with Perry to see if they offer these and how she might make the information available to families when discussing cremation interments.

Maintenance:

1. As we continue to clean out more sites, the work increases for our staff; especially in the spring cleanups which we are pressured to do prior to Memorial Day. Fall cleanups are also an important activity to reduce the time spent on the spring cleanup. Is there a need to contract with a provider to assist our staff; perhaps in doing the spring cleanup for one or more sites? P. Lines noted he will have more time available for maintenance this year. Carl Moorehead has continued his services at both Buzzell and Beech Grove. JR Stockwell noted that Karen Stockwell is retiring this year and, as previously discussed, is interested in joining our part-time staff to assist. This will be especially helpful in the spring and fall cleanups which will greatly enhance the sites. She will be available starting mid-July this year and will visit the Town Offices for the necessary paperwork.
2. Buzzell, Osgood, Wilson Hill: P. Lines will be sure that the area of the Leclair interment is cleared first in the Buzzell spring cleanup for Memorial Day. Osgood & Wilson Hill will also need raking for Mr. Beede, but that will be at some point after Memorial Day although P. Lines noted you have to stay ahead of the growth in Osgood or it's very difficult to get back down to the fallen stones.
3. Wilson Hill: P. Lines will replace/upgrade the chain/catch on gate.
4. Cemetery signs: C. Daigle will check for sign posts, probably 5-6'; planning on 3' aboveground.
5. Cemetery easement discs: JR Stockwell will erect around Town Pound. They are currently

- placed at Mary Butler and used as access guides at Foster and Edgerly (1).
6. Tax Maps: C. Daigle will request to use and then map onto the Tax Maps the twenty-five foot "No Disturb" areas around cemeteries.

Upcoming Projects:

1. Beede:
 - a. Stonework finished to date-Guinea Ridge, Page, Beech Grove, Buzzell (Stones), Mudgett, Sleeper and Hillside. Such excellent work!
 - b. 2018 projects: Tibbetts, Buzzell (12 driveway posts), Wilson Hill, and Osgood. Jr. Stockwell will contact the Taylors, owners of the access to Osgood, to let them know that we have a second contractor going in sometime later this year and J. Dickey will ask Mr. Beede to let us know before he goes into Osgood so we can coordinate with the access owners.
2. Guinea Ridge:
 - a. Kevin Fife's quote includes-replace front fence with stone wall, 180' long x 28"-30" high, single-wide, single-face to road, public works will take away fencing, Kevin removes/hauls away granite posts, supplies stone and granite corner posts at gate and wall ends.

Trustees explored the possibility/need to maintain the existing granite posts existing directly behind the wire fence to be removed. JR Stockwell viewed the site again with this question in mind. He found that the proposed stone wall is already designed to be set in front of the existing granite posts, about 9' in from the road, and will not interfere with the posts or the maple trees so the granite posts can remain in place and will be partially visible over the shorter wall. Three of them need to be straightened. It was the consensus of the Trustees to keep the granite posts in place and have K. Fife straighten those that need it. K. Fife also already has a key to the field gate across the road as the owner of that property has generously allowed him to use that as a staging area. He has the stone which is coming from Boston and Manchester. His current schedule is late summer or fall.

We'll schedule removal of the fencing just before K. Fife's start. JR Stockwell also previously talked to Road Agent Paul Perkins who is fine with the wall location. There was a question as to whether Mr. Perkins had agreed to haul away the discarded fencing but P. Lines and JR. Stockwell felt P. Lines could cart the fencing to the transfer station and could also cut off the metal fence posts at ground level as they appear to be set in concrete which the Trustees do not want to disturb/unearth.

Discussion continued on the gate. When Trustees met with the Tibbetts family, descendants of the Partridge family interred in Guinea Ridge, they were strongly in favor of the new stone wall. Their only request was that we keep the existing gate, upgrading it with a black painted galvanized pipe frame, keeping the character of the ironwork and re-using the silver woven wire fencing. To best maintain the historic character, JR Stockwell will contact Normand Pinette, Blacksmith, who has done historic gate work for us in the past and obtain a quote. Rick Sykes of Superior Fencing actually conferred with Mr. Pinette, as an expert historic resource, when we

were trying to recreate the wire fencing.

3. Osgood & Sawyer Lake:

Arbor Tech tree removal:

- a. Osgood - large white pine, additional small trees & large dead maple – Mr. Kelly will check with the owner of the access to coordinate access.
- b. Sawyer Lake – C. Daigle reported the dead sugar maple and partially dead maple, along with waste wood have been removed.

4. Website:

C. Daigle will be initiating a new Gilmanton history website. The Trustees agreed to have the public cemetery records included.

Budget Report 2017/2018:

1. 2017:

- a. Budget=\$10,480; spent=\$8,117.53; balance trans to Expendable Fund=\$2,362.47.
- b. Expendable Fund 1/1/17=\$23,582.62; spent=\$460.00; Interest=\$483.14; Fund 12/31/17= \$25,968.23.

2. 2018:

- a. Budget=\$10,780 (Wages/FICA/MC=\$5,530; Grounds Keeping=\$1,500; Office=\$100; Repairs-\$3,650. Expendable Trust Fund=\$25,968.23).
- b. Available outside of wages - \$29,618 (Repairs & Fund)
- c. Encumbered-\$18,130 (plus Guinea below)
- d. Encumbered w/Arbor Tech-\$3,250
- e. Encumbered w/Kevin Fife-\$7,000 (to be plus gates & straighten granite posts)
- f. To be and Encumbered w/Beede-\$7,880

Other Business

1. Beech Grove Tour:

J. Dickey noted that he will be hosting a tour of the Beech Grove Cemetery on July 24th at 6pm. C. Daigle will send him any notes she has on the creation of the cemetery.

2. Gravestone Project:

J. Dickey noted a discussion he had with Mr. Beede on December 18, 2017, regarding quotes on Wilson Hill and Osgood. Trustee discussion followed on additional sites for Mr. Beede's 2019 and further out schedule. We have been extremely fortunate that Mr. Beede's superb work has been affordable for our cemeteries. The Trustees feel a pressure to continue on his schedule as best possible. They discussed additional sites to request future quotes on that included Leavitt, Parsons and French. For French, we also need to consider gate and some wall work, but funds may be limited for the next few upcoming budget cycles as we saved towards the larger projects done in 2016-2018. There is the possibility of encouraging private donations towards these projects.

Respectfully Submitted,

Candace L. Daigle, Trustee

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