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**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Cemetery Trustees**

**P.O. BOX 360 – 1 Main Street
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<http://www.brooklinenh.us>

***Brookline Cemetery Trustees Minutes
March 18, 2021***

Meeting held via Zoom per Executive Order 2020-04 and Emergency Orders #12 and #23

Attending:

Brian Rater, chair
Ann Somers, secretary
Judy Cook, member

Not present:

Mike Wenrich, sexton

The meeting opened virtually at 6:30 pm, with members observing Covid protocols as to whereabouts and companions (mostly cats).

There was no public input.

Election of chair and secretary

By appropriate nominations/seconds and votes, Brian was elected to remain chair and Ann was elected to remain secretary. **Brian-Y, Ann-Y, Judy-Y**

Approve minutes

The minutes of January 21, 2021, were approved as written: Brian-Y, Ann-Y, Judy abstaining.

Update from the Sexton

Mike had provided Brian a list of items for us to address:

1. A **recent winter burial** was appreciated for the flexibility of the sexton; some finishing touches remain to be done when ground conditions allow.
2. A married couple in town would like to have **the ashes of a non-resident parent** buried locally, but will themselves be buried in a VA cemetery outside of Brookline. They have children who also currently reside in Brookline and who have not yet made plans for their own eventual burials. After considerable discussion we **agreed that the resident children may purchase a right to inter and their grandparent's ashes may be buried in that plot; further burials in that plot would be governed by the ownership of the right to inter.** Brian-Y, Ann-Y, Judy-Y

3. Mike asked when a **“spring” walkaround of cemeteries** would take place. We generally do that in June, and set the date for June 12th this year, a Saturday, subject to its being acceptable for Mike, allowing for more flexibility (and possibly fewer bugs) than the usual evening walk provides.
4. Regarding the **North Cemetery planned replacement of the plastic fence with a low rock wall**, Mike’s guidance combined with ours suggests the following sequence:
 - a. Remove plastic fencing including its supports, and discard.
 - b. Evaluate whether any excavation/prep to support a rock wall is advisable. Wall will be set back about 2-2.5 feet from present fence.
 - c. Mike has an inventory of rocks he will transport to the location.
 - d. We can plan a weekend day (a noticed meeting) for a “work party”; Judy knows of some knowledgeable potential volunteers.
5. Mike requested confirmation of the details around **adjusting the cemetery roads** to the much-delayed sidewalk project. **Ann will get details to Mike.**

Replacing missing plaque at North Cemetery

Ann suggested that since it’s been determined that it is not a Veteran’s grave, this project can be postponed until such time as we undertake general repairs within the cemeteries. All agreed. The information gathered by Ann Webb will be stored for future use. **(Judy/Ann/Ann Webb details > Mike??)**

Bids for Pine Grove fencing

This transitions from the previous year’s membership. Ann Webb had planned to work with Tad to solicit bids for the project. **Judy will work with Mike** to track current inventory and materials needed for completion of the fencing of Pine Grove, including a gate on South Main Street at the jog.

Discussion of surveying Pine Grove

We will undertake this discussion with Mike at the June walkaround. This covers the SW “field.”

Update on status of cemetery burial records

Judy reported considerable success in collecting and collating old records with help from Town Clerk Patti Howard, and photographs from various sources including Find-A-Grave, Ann’s photos, and Brian’s photos. North Cemetery is completed. Lakeside is in progress, and Judy has developed a numbering system which overcomes the original duplication/triplication of numbers. Pine Grove will likely be completed by the end of the summer. Interpreting the numbering “system” and working with too few corner markers (either not installed, or buried) has provided many challenges. Ann recently uncovered two flat markers that were overtaken by grass, and continues her photography. Our ultimate goal is to have all records as accurate as feasible, safely archived, and available to the public on line.

Update on brochures

Putting together a “package” to guide those intending to use our services will await the time when in-person meetings are reasonably comfortable, when we can ask Mike to walk us through the process so that we can develop/refine the paperwork path that will simplify the process for all.

Update on military flags

Judy is developing a list of all identified veterans in Brookline graves, and will work with the VFW / Greg d'Arbonne toward the common goal of honoring all who served.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 15, 2021, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Minutes submitted by Ann C. Somers