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

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<http://www.brooklinenh.us>

***Brookline Cemetery Trustees Minutes  
Friday, November 12, 2021***

Meeting held in person at Town Hall

Attending:

Brian Rater, chair  
Ann Somers, secretary  
Judy Cook, member  
Mike Wenrich, sexton

The meeting opened at 11:01 a.m.

**Public input**

There was no public input.

**Minutes**

The minutes from October 1<sup>st</sup> were approved unanimously as written.

**Sexton's update**

**Mike** reported that he is currently backlogged in his sexton tasks due to time constraints, has some cremation burial and plot purchase arrangements awaiting attention.

**Allowing cremation remains over vault burial**

Section IV. D. of our Cemetery Rules and Procedures states: *A single Lot may contain one full vault burial or as many as four cremations.* After discussion **we voted to add to the following sentence: At the discretion of the sexton, cremation remains may be buried with a full burial.** **Judy moved, Ann seconded, all voted in favor.**

**Cemetery trust funds update**

**Brian** reported that Tad Putney and Sharon Sturtevant have spent considerable time researching and clarifying the various anomalies discovered among the several Cemetery funds. There

appear to be no missing funds, but perhaps confusion in the bookkeeping processes going back to 2010-2011. We remain curious as to why they were never discovered by the auditors, and that question will be asked as the last few discrepancies are addressed.

#### **Budget for 2022: proposed change**

**Brian** reported that within the discussion above, it was agreed by all to remove the scholarship pass-through from cemetery bookkeeping, and our budget proposal will reflect that.

#### **Costs of mowing**

**Brian** reported that he has collected several years' worth of mowing costs on a chart he will forward.

#### **Costs of trimming grass around flat markers**

**Mike** provided an estimate from Jerry Farwell for \$500 per trimming, about a day's work. Mike suggested we allow for \$1,000, do it once, then evaluate how often we want to repeat it.

#### **Extending irrigation system at Pine Grove**

**Mike** provided an estimate of \$600 for materials and labor to extend the trunk lines, and a total of around \$1,000 to include his installing additional spigots. **Ann will note the current locations of spigots on the large map.** We agreed that some form of protection from vehicles would be advisable around the spigots.

#### **Tree trimming at Pine Grove**

**Ann** noted that the small maple on the west side of Melendy Way is struggling, and that she would like to see it receive professional pruning toward a shapely, healthy future. We will put that on the spring/summer calendar.

#### **North Cemetery Stone Wall**

**Judy and Ann** reported that there were no volunteers for the October effort, and that more muscle or some machinery will be required to complete the wall. Meanwhile it looks fine from the street. We will address it in the spring or summer.

#### **Documentation update**

**Judy** reported that she has nearly finished polishing the Excel file of burial data (grandchild of Farwell Lotus file). She and Brian will meet to clarify the process of making data, including photo links, available to the public. Brian will establish with Tad what we can store on the town's web site.

#### **Mapping and numbering/renumbering in the southwest section of Pine Grove**

Currently on hold due to time/personnel constraints.

#### **Discussion of the road names at Pine Grove**

**Ann** asked if it would be simpler for communication to number the ways rather than to use the names we have given them. Brian, Judy and Mike thought we should keep them - eventually we will install markers, which will provide clarity.

#### **Flag holders for Veterans**

**Judy** reported that she had given annotated maps to Ann and Peter Webb, but has seen no installations as yet.

### **Repair and cleaning of monuments**

**Judy** reported that she has recently suspended cleaning due to freezing nights, not wanting to add her materials to nature's challenges. The "Rockwood Five" (P149, T1-W) are currently in process, with some parts being worked on off site and the remainder temporarily supported in place. A large slab was found to be set vertically below the most southerly monument, and had to be hauled out with Mike's equipment. Another nearby Rockwood plot needs serious attention. A number of flat markers in Pine Grove have been raised to ground level, or slightly above for drainage. Some have been surrounded by pea stone, some by plants to reduce erosion effects. Along with the trimming, this remains a work in progress.

### **Volunteer cleanup of monuments**

**Brian** asked if we were comfortable with others with proper training doing volunteer cleaning. We all agreed that this could be done on the condition that **Judy** will be in charge of the decisions and methods, will train and monitor as needed, and will guide the choices of which monuments are suitable.

### **Cemetery Facebook page**

**Judy** suggested, and Ann agreed, that periodic entries to Facebook community pages will receive more attention than will a dedicated Cemetery Trustees page that people would have to "follow." The recent "two women and a bar" collaboration posted in community pages got some laughs and interest. **Judy and Ann** will make an effort to post more frequently, with pictures.

### **Recovery for re-use of old plots with minimal burials**

**Judy** reported that there are 11 empty full-sized plots at Pine Grove without names associated, and 4 to 5 with names but apparently abandoned. We need to confirm that there are no burials in those. At Lakeside she identifies 26 vacant full plots. **Brian** will review those against the map for size. According to the minutes of April 23, 2014, the first meeting of the Cemetery Trustees, Lakeside is accepting "Ashes interment only, no grave lots." No explanation was given in the minutes; underlying ledge and physical access appear to be concerns. Judy is exploring whether people over the years paid for plots, or only for perpetual care. There are no deeds – it was understood (in the April 2014 minutes) that the cemeteries are town land and cannot be sold; that is when selling a Right to Inter was instituted.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m. The next meeting will be Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at Town Hall.

Minutes submitted by Ann C. Somers