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

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***Brookline Cemetery Trustees Minute
Friday, December 30, 2021***

Meeting held in person at Town Hall and via Zoom

Attending:

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

The meeting opened at 11:04 a.m. There was no public input.

The minutes from November 12th were approved unanimously as written.

Sexton's update

Mike presented an invoice for \$2926.00 from Chadwick-BaRoss to cover the purchase of a new bucket for the excavator. This bucket will hugely simplify digging for interments. He described the excavator as a “game changer” for the town. **All approved: Judy-Y, Brian-Y, Ann-Y.**

Mike requested approval for payment of \$3,000 to Nelson Brothers Landscaping for fall cleanup and mowing at Pine Grove. **All approved: Judy-Y, Ann-Y, Brian-Y.** This is the only cemetery at which a fall cleanup was done this year. There was some discussion about including fall and spring cleanups at the other cemeteries going forward. There was also discussion about two monuments recently damaged, possibly during the course of the cleanup. **Judy** has protected them for the winter, and noted that their repair is relatively straightforward. She and her team will accomplish the repairs in the spring as conditions allow.

Mike noted that a considerable amount of **pet waste** has been found consistently at Lakeside Cemetery. We agreed that **Mike will draft a letter to send to the abutters.** **Judy** noted that there is also pet waste left routinely at Pine Grove Cemetery. **Ann** moved, **Judy** seconded, and **Ann, Judy and Brian** each voted Yes, that **Mike is authorized to spend up to \$700 to purchase and install signs requesting pet waste removal, one at each of the seven entrances at Pine Grove.** **Judy and Ann will collaborate to**

publicize our concerns on line. Mike inquired about pet policy, and we told him we had considered it (before his tenure), but determined at that time not to forbid pets.

Mike told us that due to current need, he is moving forward on re-numbering the new plots at Pine Grove according to the plan that has been discussed with Judy and Ann. He will need to notify two families of changes. Mike and Judy will confirm the configuration; there is some uncertainty about how far west the top row goes, which will determine the numbering of the rows below it.

Pine Grove Cemetery Documentation

Judy stated that she is essentially finished documenting the interments at Pine Grove, is cross-checking to make sure the Excel master file data (developed from a Word table that derived from a Lotus file, plus a range of other documents) matches the master Plot Book data.

Judy noted that many residents have asked her about the possibility of interment at Lakeside, which rumor has had it for years is “full.” In fact, she says, there are more vacant lots at Lakeside than at Pine Grove. It’s been suggested that Lakeside be limited to cremations due to the topography which includes underlying ledge. **Judy** will be researching old records at Town Hall over the winter in a continuing effort to clarify what payments have been received over the years. Judy counts a total of 2,137 total interments in Brookline.

Plot pictures for Lakeside

Clarifying the agenda item: Since it was confirmed that no plot book for Lakeside existed, **Judy** created one for the sexton’s use. Its whereabouts are currently uncertain; if it is lost, Judy will create another copy.

Repair and cleaning of monuments

Judy reported that the northeast quadrant of Pine Grove (T5-E) is mostly cleaned as needed, with just a few monuments and flat markers remaining that she would like to clean in the spring. Many monuments and flats have been cleaned elsewhere in the cemetery as well. Where flats are raised, they are re-set using a pea-stone surround of about 2”, sometimes with landscaping fabric. **Judy** shared some details about cleaning materials: one type of algae turns orange before fading; bleach discolors (Fuller stone); marble streaks vertically from “Wet and Forget.” Current best practice is D2 cleaner and lots of water. The military marbles are easy to do, which gives her some hope for older marbles.

Judy reported that **Dave Tiller of Andres Institute** is working with some of the Rockwood monuments at both P149 (Rockwood 5) and P135 (Rockwood 6). They are currently protected for the winter – some in the Andres studio, and one by lying face-down *in situ* to avoid the elements.

Judy will be requiring assistance for some of the repair work, and will be seeking volunteer help in 2022 from a variety of sources. She believes she has established a crew for the summer. There may be a group from Amherst who will come for a “class” in cleaning which Judy will offer and supervise at Pine Grove this spring.

Judy will continue researching to identify empty and potentially usable lots. At some point we will need to do an *in situ* evaluation to confirm, where possible, that apparently empty lots are indeed available for use. And we will want to determine how best to delineate between old and current uses.

Meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m. Next meeting will be Friday, January 21st at 11:00 a.m. at Town Hall.

Minutes submitted by Ann C. Somers