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

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***Brookline Cemetery Trustees Minutes
Friday, April 1, 2022***

Meeting held in person at the Brookline Public Works building and via Zoom;
and in person at Pine Grove Cemetery

Attending:

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

Mike Wenrich, sexton
Tyler Picard, for Pine Grove portion

The meeting opened at 11:03 a.m. There was no public input.

One item was added to the agenda: benches at Pine Grove Cemetery

Election of Officers

Judy moved that Brian remain as chair and Ann as secretary. Ann seconded Brian for chair, Brian seconded Ann for secretary. **Voice vote: Brian-Y, Ann-Y, Judy-Y**

Approve Minutes

The **minutes** from March 4th were approved unanimously as written. **Brian-Y, Ann-Y, Judy-Y**

Benches at Pine Grove

Brian will raise the question of support with the Lions at a meeting in the near future. The secretary will attempt to remember ;-) to provide a reminder near meeting time for the heavily committed chair.

Sexton report

Mike reported that Souhegan Tree Service had declined to submit a proposal for the tree work needed at Pine Grove, citing the complications and risk of damage in working around the gravestones. He will pursue other potential providers.

Request to offer a tour around Pine Grove

Brian reported that Brendan Denehy would like to give a tour of Pine Grove with a historical perspective over Memorial Day Weekend. **Ann** asked whether Dave Pease might want to video the tour for historical purposes; **Brian** will speak with Brendan about it. All in favor: **Brian-Y, Ann-Y, Judy-Y**

Flag holders update

Judy reported that the flag holders will probably be distributed in early May. She has provided maps to **Ann and Peter Webb**, and Ann Somers will be available to help as needed, particularly with the unmapped “Ancients” section. **Judy** requests that any flags without holders be removed. Her goal is that all vets will have flags in holders, and all flags in holders will have vets associated. Judy will be away from April 15th to May 16th.

Mike noted that at Lakeside the wind frequently blows the flags out of the holders, and ties of some sort may be critical to keeping them in place. He prefers that flags be removed before winter, soon after Veterans Day in November.

Flat markers maintenance

Judy has been raising some of the flat markers to be about 1” above soil level, surrounded by 1” to 1.5” of peastone. Mike will confirm with the mowers what height works best.

Pine Grove documentation

Judy reported that she has “massaged” the Excel file, extracting information from a wide range of sources. Her next project will be to go over old Town Reports and ledgers from the 1920s and 1930s which are in the custody of Town Clerk Patti Howard. Her goal is to “capture all the money ever given” to the town toward burials in Pine Grove and Lakeside Cemeteries, and thereby to identify which lots are and are not available for future use.

Cemetery Trustees records have been moved to the new Public Works Building, in an area dedicated to cemetery matters. Each plot will have its own file folder, and the Sexton will have a flat file for large maps. Judy is making copies of Patti’s pages for Sexton accessibility; these will include land acquisitions over the years.

Recovering old/unused plots and gravesites

Judy has begun color-coding gravesites in the Excel file to make it easy for the sexton to distinguish which gravesites are available to an owner, and which are available to the public.

Judy reports that there are 20 or more Lakeside plots that are completely unused, of varying sizes. Mike and Tyler will measure them so we can determine their capacities.

Cemetery in the Wood kiosk

Judy will address this as a summer project.

North Cemetery stone wall completion

Mike will work with volunteer **Peter Webb**.

North Cemetery gate and sign update

Judy reported that John Weidman has materials available at no cost to us for a threshold under the planned gate. The gate will be a summer project. No further action on historical sign at present.

Pet waste signs at Pine Grove

Mike showed us suggested designs. By consensus we chose a brown one, with the word “*Please*” and a graphic in white; the graphic will be edited to remove the receptacle which we have chosen not to provide/maintain.

ADJOURNMENT TO PINE GROVE

In order to make some needed *in situ* determinations, we adjourned the hybrid meeting at 12:05 p.m., and reconvened in person at Pine Grove Cemetery at 12:20 p.m. with the addition of Mike’s assistant Tyler Picard.

Entrances on South Main Street

With the sidewalk project anticipated to take place this year, we helped Mike establish guidelines for straightening out both Potanipo and Nissitissit Lanes (the southernmost two cross roads) where they currently curve toward South Main Street. We agreed on placement of the tall (Nissitissit) and shorter (Potanipo) granite markers for these two entrances. They will be set back from the current picket fence line both to highlight the entrance locations and to facilitate turns.

Numbering of new plots

We established that Mike will lay out the first two rows below the southwest edge of Potanipo Lane in 20’x20’ plots, as far to the west (South Main) as the state’s right of way allows. He will adjust the numbering of the more southern row as appropriate for continuity, and will make a correction for the one recently-occupied plot that will be affected.

Marking trees for removal

With Mike and Tyler we identified the trees that need to be removed this year – most of them are silver maples from a century ago that have been deteriorating in recent years, and all of them present hazards. (*per Judy’s research: 105 years ago 54 of them were purchased for around \$50 total*)

Ann asked that Mike consult a tree expert about appropriate care for the two small maples on the west side of Melendy Lane.

Mike and Tyler left. Brian, Ann and Judy briefly explored various areas of interest.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m. The next meeting will be Friday, May 27, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Brookline Public Works building.

Minutes submitted by Ann C. Somers