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

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***Brookline Cemetery Trustees Minutes
Friday, June 24, 2022***

Meeting scheduled to begin at Pine Grove Cemetery

Attending:

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

The meeting opened at 10:10 a.m. at the southeast section of Pine Grove Cemetery. With Sexton Mike Wenrich unexpectedly unavailable and critical to the tour, we abbreviated our efforts at Pine Grove and continued on to tour North Cemetery, Cemetery in the Woods, and Lakeside Cemetery. Pine Grove will be rescheduled.

Pine Grove

Dave Tiller of Andres Institute was present to discuss the continued restoration and reinstallation of the “Rockwood Five” and the other nearby Rockwood group. **Judy and Dave** plan to run a string between the plots north and south of the Rockwood Five so that all will be in alignment. The adjacent old maple will be removed, and the underground challenges will be managed to provide secure footings for the restored monuments. **Dave** noted that Hudson Monument, periodically present for other purposes, praised our (Judy and Dave’s) management and protection of the in-process monuments. **Judy** has some summer help available, and between them all the monuments will be repaired, cleaned, and re-set. We agreed that Dave can store his tools in the vault while the work is ongoing.

We walked around in the near neighborhood and noted some flags missing or in need of replacement and one monument whose decoration needs repair. Judy will pursue the flags.

Brian brought to our attention that the use of **Mike's time as sexton** has been the subject of recent discussion with the Selectboard, and we will need to adjust our expectations. His sexton duties have taken up considerably more time than any of us had anticipated, and his primary job as director of the Brookline Public Works department requires his primary attention. We may need to adjust our hopes for scheduling of improvements. The cemeteries have benefited substantially from Mike's attention following years of minimal maintenance; many people are noticing the changes happily. But they are necessarily the result of more time spent than formerly – e.g., Mike and Tyler will be supporting the tree removal this year that we had hoped to outsource entirely, at considerable cost savings to the town for an essential task, but using hours not originally anticipated.

Tyler is doing an excellent job in picking up some of the sexton tasks, and there will be another BPW employee hired soon.

Judy will put the purchase packets together as soon as **Mike** finalizes his requirements.

Judy and Brian suggested that we put a sign against the west wall of the vault requesting that people not leave grave-cleaning trash there as had been a custom for years.

Judy suggested we collect a burials list for 2021 and 2022 and make sure we have updated photos for all plots involved.

We noted that the decorations of one plot near the vault had significantly overrun the plot bounds. We think that **corners in the ground and clarity in the paperwork should prevent that in the future.**

We will reschedule a full walkaround when Mike is available.

North Cemetery

Apparently North Cemetery was not mowed last year, and the small oaks are becoming larger. **Brian** volunteered that he and Brenden Denehy will manage those, and following that we will ask to have it mowed. We determined that the earliest reliable date recorded in stone in that cemetery is 1815, (Richard Melendy), and that is the date that will be used for the proposed sign for the cemetery. The stone wall remains to be completed and the gate is still in process – we are grateful for the work and talents of Peter Webb and John Weidman!

Cemetery in the Woods

Judy plans this summer to refresh the display and seal the wood. We trimmed some brush that impinged on the path to the cemetery. **We will schedule a workday to clean the rails, and Brian will weed-whack the brush as needed.**

Lakeside Cemetery

Ann mentioned that the northernmost section of the vinyl fencing dangerously interferes with visibility from a low vehicle when exiting the road at that location. She suggested removing that single section for safety. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

We walked around most of the cemetery until the weather interfered. It appears in good shape and well cared for. Some yellowing of cleaned marble markers is apparently the return of algae, per Judy. A number of monuments are in need of repair, but nothing new was noted. Other than slight flag adjustments done on the spot, we found no immediate action items at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45. The full Pine Grove walkthrough remains to be scheduled.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2022 at 3:00 at the Public Works building.

Minutes submitted by Ann C. Somers