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

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<http://www.brooklinenh.us>

***Brookline Cemetery Trustees Minutes
September 30, 2022***

Meeting held in person at the Brookline Public Works building and via Zoom

Attending:

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

Mike Wenrich, sexton

The meeting opened at 11:10 a.m. There was no public input.

Approve minutes

The minutes from August 19th were approved unanimously as written: **Brian-Y, Judy-Y, Ann-Y.**

Sexton's report (with others' comments included)

Pine Grove: The repair/extension of the **spigoted water system** (not *irrigation* although we routinely use that term) has been delayed. **Mike will purchase the necessary materials now with the already-approved Cemetery funds. It will be completed either this year or next, depending upon staff availability and urgency of competing projects.** Judy suggested we have a chain saw artist do something interesting with the saved trunk which had grown around a water spigot.

With ARPA funding determined unlikely, **Mike ordered whiteboards for mapping as we met.**

Judy reported that the restoration process at Pine Grove continues, with **a goal to have off-pedestal monuments back in place before winter.** She is putting together a system for safely lifting monuments, pieces of which will be stored in the vault building.

North Cemetery: **Peter Webb** has kindly completed the stone wall. **Judy** reported that John Weidman will complete the gate after this year's Andres Symposium, ideally before winter.

Cemetery in the Woods: Brian and Brendan have not found the time to tidy; will do it in the spring.

Lakeside: no discussion

Expenditures

Mike presented invoices for approval:

- \$825 to Balcom Brothers (\$550 and \$275) for rental of a stump grinder (from Tree Maintenance/Replacement)
- \$364.05 to Powell Stone and Gravel for 3 deliveries of loam to level sites (from Burials)

It was moved and seconded that we approve the above expenditures: Ann-Y, Judy-Y, Brian-Y

Plot exchanges

Pine Grove plot P345: Judy moved, Brian seconded, and **we voted unanimously (Judy-Y, Brian-Y, Ann-Y) to expend \$600 to repurchase from Tom Monahan the perpetual care of his two gravesites in plot P345.** These will become available to the Lavery family whose members are interested in owning RTIs in a number of plots adjacent to their current ones in P345. **Brian will arrange for a check to be drawn on the Cemetery Trust Fund** (the old perpetual care fund) as the rights were initially purchased around 2010 before the new General Cemetery Maintenance Fund was created **and given to Mike.** **Mike will send the check with an appropriate letter to Tom Monahan.**

Update on records

Judy reported that **records are essentially complete, with additions and corrections now made as needed.** **Judy will update all appropriate records on the Sexton's computer at the Public Works building where they will be maintained from now on.**

Irrigation, mapping and display

Judy continues to work toward an updated working map for Pine Grove. **Mike, Judy and Ann will meet at Pine Grove to determine the best way to map out the southwest corner.** Judy and Ann will coordinate corrections from the current working map, toward production of a new working map.

Mike determined as we met that the most recent maps for North Cemetery and Cemetery in the Woods [2006 by AutoMax Inc.] were derived with the use of ground-penetrating radar, and thus indeed show burials for which there is currently no above-ground evidence. **Judy** would like to similarly establish whether there are in fact burials in P002 at Pine Grove, identified as “strangers,” with no above-ground evidence.

Rotted benches at Pine Grove

Mike will talk with the appropriate private parties about the two wooden-slat benches which have deteriorated and should be removed, repaired or replaced.

Budget Proposal for 2023

We reviewed our budget and expenditures for 2022, discussed the overages and their causes and what we anticipate for 2023. Notable were that we had not budgeted for burials, but ran into instances where equipment was needed; mowing costs are expected to rise significantly next year; and we plan to purchase replacement trees next year. Following discussion, Ann moved/Judy seconded and we voted unanimously in favor of the following budget proposal. Ann-Y, Judy-Y, Brian-Y

2023 Proposed Cemetery Budget for the town of Brookline, NH		
Expenses:		
	Mowing, Landscaping, and Maintenance	\$25,000.00
	Tree Maintenance and Replacement	\$12,000.00
	Gravel for roads	\$1,000.00
	Monument Maintenance and Repair	\$1,300.00
	Burials	\$400.00
Total Expenses:		\$39,700.00
From Cemetery Trust Funds:		\$9,700.00
Net Tax Appropriation:		\$30,000.00

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 30, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. There is no meeting scheduled for November. The following meeting will be on Friday, December 9, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. Meetings are held in person at the Public Works building and via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Ann C. Somers