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

**P.O. BOX 360 – 1 Main Street
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<http://www.brooklinen nh.us>

***Brookline Cemetery Trustees Minutes
December 9, 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 11:08 a.m. There was no public input.

Approve minutes

The minutes from October 28th were approved unanimously as written: **Ann-Y, Judy-Y, Brian-Y.**

Sexton's report

Mike reported about potential purchases by two families of RTIs within established plots. With Judy's guidance and some discussion, we determined that sections A and B of P280 were available for one family's needs, and gravesites A-1 and A2 of P002 would work well for the other family. We determined as well that we will site a tree and a bench on P001, which is a corner plot and holds only two burials.

Discussion of budget and accounts

Brian advised us that the Selectboard, anticipating substantial legal fees this year, reduced our requested \$30,000 budget to \$24,000.

We had considerable discussion around clarifying what each of the Cemetery Trustee accounts covers and how they are used. Brian will consider adjusting their titles for clarity and asking that all four

accounts be listed together in sequence in the Annual Report. He will share with us regularly detailed payment records so we individually can track them easily.

Brian reported that Town Administrator Scott Butcher has suggested a change in the process of presenting invoices for payment. We discussed pros and cons; a decision is not required immediately, and there will be further discussion before any action is taken.

Signs and ground-penetrating radar

Mike will follow up with a contact who does ground-penetrating radar evaluations of cemeteries. A radar evaluation will show likely burials combined with an overlay of existing monuments.

Update on records

Judy reported that all known records are now current, and we are simply adding new burials as they take place and any new discoveries as they make themselves known. We are deeply grateful for Judy's several years of hard work on this project!

Update on monument cleaning/restoration

Judy reiterated that the Rockwood Five (P149) are now vertical and intact with one covered for winter protection, and that similar work on the Rockwood Six (P135) will continue next year. She has recorded 73 hours of community service volunteer work and an additional 52.5 paid hours, mostly on resetting flat markers to ground level with a surround of pea stone. An additional 31 community service hours were provided to help Dave Tiller and Kevin Duffy with the Rockwoods.

Judy reported that she has heard from several people who are interested in volunteering for similar work.

Vault repair/maintenance

Brian reported that his mason contact does not do this sort of work on concrete blocks. **Judy will explore another possibility.**

Benches at Pine Grove

There is a bench offered at Plow & Hearth that we all like. **We authorized Judy to purchase one under \$350 (Ann-Y, Judy-Y, Brian-Y), and Judy** ordered one as we met. We will evaluate it and determine whether to buy more.

Annual Report to Town

We agreed that we would share ideas on line toward our annual report text which will be due toward the end of January.

Visioning

We determined that this should be a major discussion and a primary focus for our January meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:56 p.m. **The next meeting** is scheduled for Friday, January 6, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. The focus will be on the Town Report and visioning.

Minutes submitted by Ann C. Somers