TOWN OF GILFORD

CEMETERY TRUSTEES

MEETING MINUTES

June 2, 2022

Attendance:

Trustees Pete Allen, Rae Mello-Andrews, and Kristin Snow, DPW Director Meghan Theriualt, and Town Administrator Scott Dunn were present.

Pete called the public meeting of the Cemetery Trustees to order at 4:05 pm in the Town Hall Cemetery Trustees Office. Members said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the May 5, 2022 minutes made by Rae and seconded by Pete. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Public Comment:

Bill Rohr, a Gilford resident and co-founder of The Honor Bear Project, explained the charitable organization and offered his help with identifying additional veterans in Gilford cemeteries. The Trustees provided him with printed copies of the spreadsheets listing 382 veterans who had been identified through research by past and current Trustees and other volunteers. All had flags placed at their markers or headstones by the Trustees in the week prior to Veterans Day. Bill will let the Trustees know of additional veterans, who will then have flags placed.

Old Business:

Jake Young is maintaining Pine Grove and McCoy Cemeteries, with additional help as needed from DPW staff. Jake is watering the new trees at Pine Grove per Belknap Landscaping’s instructions.

Aaron Alpert is maintaining the town-maintained historic cemeteries.Pete and Kristin conducted a walkthrough of historic cemeteries on May 24, 2022, noting conditions and stones that require repair. Notes are appended at the end of these minutes.

The Trustees discussed how the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund can be used for lot upkeep.

A resident continues to work with Wilkinson Beane Funeral Home and a local monument company to move a small family cemetery within Gilford into 4 plots that have been purchased in Pine Grove Cemetery.

The Trustees discussed the poor condition of the hedges at the front of Pine Grove Cemetery. Meghan will ask local fence companies for information and costs for removing the hedges and replacing with fencing that is appropriate for the cemetery. She will report at a future meeting.

New Business:

Four burials were conducted last week, with 4 total burials to date in 2022. Four lots have been sold in Pine Grove Cemetery to date in 2022. Three burials are currently scheduled with several other burials pending. The Trustees have been in contact with residents interested in purchasing lots in Pine Grove Cemetery and have assisted with locations for stone/marker placements.

The Trustees discussed the change in Dignified Cemetery Services fees. As of May 2022, a $100 per burial fuel surcharge has been added. Pete asked Meghan to see if she could identify someone local who would be interested in performing some of the cremation openings and closings for a lower cost to bereaved families. She will report back to the Trustees.

Pete will contact Charlie Beede of Beede Cemetery Works to ask if he has availability to do gravestone repairs.

Kristin will ask Bill MacLean if he wants to volunteer to do headstone cleaning at Ames Cemetery this year.

The Trustees acknowledged a May 24, 2022 email from a resident strongly approving of the condition of Pine Grove Cemetery.

Upcoming Meetings:

The next monthly meeting of the Cemetery Trustees will be held Thursday, July 7, 2022 at 4:00 pm in the Town Hall Conference Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Snow, Secretary of the Cemetery Trustees

Approved by vote of the Cemetery Trustees on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

**2022 Historic Cemetery Walkthrough Report.**

Ames Cemetery: Needs another mowing. Shannon monument and Hannah Gilman headstone need repair. Clara Leavitt stone leaning.

Carr Cemetery: Needs spring cleanup. No newly damaged stones. Some stones could be cleaned.

Collins Cemetery: Good condition. No newly damaged stones. Some stones could be cleaned.

Davis Cemetery: Good condition. No newly damaged stones. Some stones could be cleaned.

Grant Cemetery: Needs spring cleanup. Stones recently cleaned. No newly damaged stones. Mary Clifford stone leaning.

Hoyt Cemetery: Good condition. No newly damaged stones. No stone requiring repair.

James Cemetery: Good condition. Stones recently cleaned. No newly damaged stones.

Liberty Hill Cemetery: Good condition. No newly damaged stones. 1 large monument broken in the past could be repaired.

McCoy Cemetery: Good condition. Several stones require repair, as the company hired to do the repairs last year did not complete the work: Sarah Buzzell (previously repaired), Albert Gilman, James Guilford, Mary Spokesfield, Charles Blaisdell, Almon Sanborn, Infant Sanborn. Several other stones are leaning.

Pest House Burial Ground: Needs spring cleanup.

Weeks Cemetery: Needs another mowing. No newly damaged stones.

Wilkinson Cemetery: Needs spring cleanup. No newly damaged stones. Some stones could be cleaned.