

Minutes of the Canterbury Cemetery Trustees

Meeting of July 11th, 2024 at the Meeting House, Canterbury, NH

Present were John Goegel, Jan Cote and Sam Papps, Mark Stevens and Kent Ruesswick.

- 1) John Goegel opened the meeting at 9 a.m., and welcomed guests Greg Heath and Rich Kleinschmidt of the Concord Monthly Meeting Quaker group. Sam opened the discussion, explaining that he and Kent had attended a presentation on Green Burials in 2019 at the Quaker Meetinghouse, and there were ideas expressed that the Meeting was interested in establishing a green burial cemetery. There hadn't seemed to be action on this yet by the group. Sam had queried of Greg Heath if there should be a dialogue with Quakers and the Cemetery Trustees regarding members of their group being buried at the Maple Grove. Greg Heath responded with several questions, regarding if green burials were possible at the cemetery, and if members of the group who were not residents could be interred there. The Quakers had intentions of buying a piece of land across the road from their meetinghouse on Oxbow Pond Road, but that hadn't worked out. Kent Ruesswick confirmed that the term green burial intended to convey remains that were not embalmed, and that to date, there had been one such burial in recent years at the cemetery. There was a discussion in the group regarding membership, fees that could be paid to buy graves at the cemetery, and how it would work. Greg offered that he and Rich didn't really know where the appeal for green burial in their group stemmed from. The conclusion of the discussion was that Greg and Rich would survey their group to establish firm numbers of people interested in pursuing this. Jan Cote offered that the Trustees were open to the idea, but it was agreed more information was needed. The Trustees thanked Greg and Rich for attending.
Mark Stevens brought up the residency requirement with the Trustees being a condition of buying a grave at Maple Grove and the Trustees agreed exceptions were made on a case-by-case basis for good cause shown.
- 2) Kent Ruesswick reported as Sexton that Harry Brown Jr. had been interred at the Maple Grove in the lower section. He also brought up concern regarding autumn olive, an aggressive bush that had several large stems at the cemetery along the left hand wall behind the Asby lot, and in the lower section behind the Maxfield lot. It was discussed bringing Brian Magoon to cut it out and shred it. Several deeds were signed by the Trustees.
- 3) John Goegel made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 13th meeting as amended, seconded by Jan Cote. No discussion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.
- 4) Mark Stevens reported as Historian, following up regarding an inquiry of a WWI veteran's marker, and the resolution of that query. He also noted that Deb and Diane had been working on the Cemetery Walk for 2024, focusing on a religious theme.
- 5) John Goegel stated there was no Veteran's Affairs report.
- 6) Jan Cote gave a brief report as the Cemetery Keepers Coordinator, stating the dates for the fall cemetery inspections would be set at the August meeting. The Trustees agreed to send a letter regarding a property owner's request for a tree to be cut down near a private cemetery, denying this request as the tree does not pose a substantial danger to the stones and is on the private property owner's land, and that the Town budget is limited as it is. The Trustees had recently received a compliment regarding the Hancock Cemetery, and how good the repaired stones look.

- 7) The Hannon land acquisition was still on hold, Sam Papps reported. Mark Padula's work is progressing as seen by the Trustees. Removing the large pines at the upper part of the cemetery is conditioned on obtaining the Hannon property. Jan offered to call the Samaha family to find out who cuts the invasive plants and bushes on their family property. John Goegel had spoken to Dale Caswell regarding the Mathis headstone that had been down. The Trustees discussed the "Orphaned Cemetery" process again. Jeff Leidinger's donation of a gate at Shell Meetinghouse Cemetery was completed, and John had submitted a note of gratitude for the project to the donor.
- 8) Regarding the Canterbury Cemetery Association,
 - a. Charlie Beede had been paid for the George Shannon memorial. Mr. Beede had also donated some extra work of righting a downed headstone nearby in the Center Cemetery.
 - b. John reported that there was \$350 in the Shell Meetinghouse Account at the CCA for the cemetery, towards the \$500 necessary to trim the oak tree and fell the birch tree. Mark Stevens offered to look at the birch tree.
 - c. Headstone repairs at the Hancock Cemetery went over budget, but the project was done. Sam had suggested requesting the CCA buy a flat stone for "Dorothy", a headstone for a burial that was broken beyond repair, and Sam would get numbers and info for the next meeting.
- 9) The Canterbury Cemetery Association had approved the gift card and would be in touch regarding where to deliver it. There was a discussion by the Trustees regarding this item.

The next meeting will be August 8^h at 9 a.m.

Motion to adjourn was made by John Goegel, seconded by Jan Cote. A vote was taken and the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Papps, Secretary
for the Canterbury Cemetery Trustees