

Meeting of the Deerfield, New Hampshire Cemetery Trustees DRAFT MINUTES

October 23, 2017

Present: Maureen Mann, Dana van der Bijl, and Don Watts
Guest: Cemetery Superintendent Mark Young

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am.

Mark Young joined us to discuss his plans for the many tree issues in our cemeteries. He intends to:

- Take down two trees (an old pine and a maple) in Sanborn Cemetery on Middle Road.
- Remove a completely rotten maple from the Tilton Cemetery.
- Remove many dead limbs from Parade.
- Remove dead wood from Pulsifer on South.
- Remove a dead tree in the Sanborn Cemetery on South Road.
- Remove some dead limbs from Old Center.

Some leaning trees were taken out of the Currier Cemetery on Ridge today.

Mark estimates all of the above should be able to be done with approximately \$5,000 and plans on using any additional funds on other cemeteries in need of care.

The pooling of resources was discussed. Eric Seitz will come in with his bucket truck at a fee of \$80/hour, and he will work on some trees for the town at the same time he works on some for the cemetery trustees. Mark feels this will allow the town and the trustees to maximize the number of trees that can come down while utilizing our current tree budget.

Mark will arrange to pick up a cemetery gate from a local family who had seen that it had come off during a storm and kept it for safekeeping.

The board asked Mark if he kept a log of all burials in Deerfield. He told us that there is no log, but only a file of burial permits that is kept by the town clerk. We checked in with Kevin Barry, who showed us a binder containing all deaths and burials in Deerfield since 2009. We noticed that each entry is marked with a "destroy" date, and confirmed that the town does indeed destroy them periodically. We will need to check with the Department of Vital Records to see if these permits are kept on file there. Ultimately, we want to be able to update Joanne Wasson's records with all burials since her survey in the 1980s.

The board voted to create an updated cemetery book containing ranges 1-3.

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Additional town cemeteries were discussed. There are cemeteries listed on the map as being on town land. We need to find out if these cemeteries are then considered "town owned" cemeteries.

Also, certain cemeteries seem to have been "abandoned" in that when they changed hands the burial grounds were purposely left off the deed. Does that mean these parcels belong to Deerfield?

We discussed ways to differentiate between the many cemeteries with the same name. We will work on adding descriptors to the Ladds, Batchelders, Pulsifers, etc...perhaps by adding the road name to the title.

Meeting adjourned at 9:52 am.

Our next meeting will be at 9:00 am on Monday, November 20th.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Dana van der Bijl, Secretary