

Meeting of the Deerfield, New Hampshire Cemetery Trustees

DRAFT MINUTES

April 16, 2024

Present: Rick Druckenmiller, Dana van der Bijl, Phil Bilodeau, Jenny Wellington, Ron Harvey

Meeting called to order at **9:25 am**

The board **voted unanimously to approve the minutes** of the **March** meeting.

Columbarium - Monument Warehouse has completed the columbarium. We are now waiting for installation. Projected date of May 5th. Sitework to be completed first.

Quilt Raffle – We will be selling tickets at **Tricky Tray** on May 2 from 3-7 pm and on May 3 from 3-6:30 pm. Dana will make a sign and prepare 200 tickets and get them to Phil before May 2.

Nu-Stone provided an estimate for the clean-up and maintenance of the **13 cemeteries** that were already cleaned up but are not covered by maintenance contracts. The cemeteries are: **Iver Merrill B-07, Woodman B-14, Cram C-07, Haynes/Currier C-08/09, Philbrick Merrill C-11, Tennant-Collins C-15, Fisk-Sandhill C-16, Goodhue Fellowes D-23, Goodhue-Poor Farm D-25, Freese-Fogg E-09, Prescott E-11, Whittier F-19, and Eastman G-03.** In total, we spent \$14,295 cleaning up these town-owned cemeteries.

Nu-Stone has quoted \$125 each (per service) **for spring and fall clean ups** for 12 of the cemeteries. **Fisk-Sandhill C-16** is larger and will cost **\$175**, plus an additional **\$400** to cut up and remove multiple downed trees on that property.

Mowing for the 12 cemeteries will be **\$175** each and will be done three times (or fewer) this year. **Fisk-Sandhill C-16** will be **\$250** each time. Matt will let us know when and if service is not required and we will not be billed if no services are rendered.

In total, it will cost \$10,800 to clean up and maintain these 13 town owned cemeteries for the next year. The board **voted unanimously** to have it done, starting with the spring clean-ups of all 13 for **\$2,075** with funding to come from individual trust funds wherever possible with the balance to come from the cemetery maintenance fund. Nu-Stone will proceed with maintenance as needed and will invoice as each service is rendered.

Volunteer Update – Jenny reported that Robin McKinnon and Amy Beauchamp have adopted recommend **Batchelder D-17** on Meetinghouse Hill Road. Molly Dawson has adopted **Meloon Cemetery B-1** on Reservation Road.

A tree fell at Freese-Fogg on 107. **Jared Messina** will take it down for **\$1,250** and haul away the debris and grind the stump. The board voted unanimously to use any available trust funds with the balance to come from the cemetery maintenance fund.

Parade Cemetery Renovation – the \$1800 deposit has been received by NuStone and he will be starting this weekend (April 20).

Norcross Donation – Phil will ask John at **Hall Monument** to straighten as many headstones as possible at **Fellows-Sanborn** for \$3,000.

The board had a lengthy discussion about **pricing for cemetery plots, urn garden plots, and columbarium niches**. After comparing with several other NH municipal cemeteries, it was decided that **as of June 1, 2024, the following prices will apply:**

Old Center Cemetery on Meetinghouse Hill Road

Single Grave Lot (one casket) *or* (two urns) *or* (one casket plus one urn) **\$800**

Urn Garden (up to two urns) – **\$600** includes the right to inter. **Markers: one flat marker per lot** – choose either **24" x 12" x 4"** marker for one urn/one name or **36" x 18" x 4"** for two urns/two names.

Columbarium – There are a total of 64 niches available. The columbarium has two sides. Each side has 4 rows of 8 niches.

Top Row = \$1600 / Second Row = \$1400 / Third Row = \$1200 / Bottom Row = \$1,000

Columbarium niche sales will include the right to inter. An appropriate document will need to be drafted. Engraving of niche doors will be separate and will need to be done according to standards (to be determined).

Dana will check with **Trustee of the Trust Funds** and John Harrington about the rules for utilizing the **Cemetery Acquisition Fund**. She has also been in contact regarding the need to **establish a flow of information between the cemetery trustees, town accounting, and Trustee of the Trust Funds**. We need a way of finding out when plots are sold, when the money is deposited into the Cemetery Maintenance Fund (CMF), and when/how the money earns interest when it is not immediately deposited directly into the CMF. We also need regular reports on the balances in our trust funds and the CMF.

There has been no response from **Representative and MBC chair Terry Roy regarding the care of veteran graves in Deerfield** in the month since we contacted him. During the budgeting process, Mr. Roy offered his help with finding funding for the care of neglected cemeteries containing the remains of veterans. Dana will send it again and ask to be pointed in the appropriate direction if he is unable to help.

Our next meeting will be at 9:30 am on June 12th at the George B. White Building. There will be no May meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dana van der Bijl, Secretary