

Meeting of the Deerfield, New Hampshire Cemetery Trustees

DRAFT MINUTES

March 13, 2024

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

Absent: Ron Harvey

Meeting called to order at **9:30 am**

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

The **Pembroke Police** called the Deerfield Police to inform them that they **found a headstone** that had been stolen from one of our cemeteries. It was found in an antique store that was vacated. It turned out to belong to **Mary F. Davis in the Old Center Cemetery**. The stone was delivered to Phil, and he has it in his garage for the time being. We will check into having it repaired and replaced. Jenny will send a thank-you note to the Pembroke Police.

Quilt Raffle – Phil has turned in another **\$50** to John Harrington for the Cemetery Maintenance Donations escrow account. The board will keep an eye out for opportunities to sell more tickets before the **Old Home Day drawing on August 17**. Phil arranged it with FOCUS to sell tickets during the function but NOT during the drawing. Phil will check with **Leslie van Berkum** to see if we can sell during the **Coffeehouse** on May 4.

Columbarium - Jenny reported that production is still in progress and expected to be finished in the third week of March. **Monument Warehouse** will send updates and photos as the project progresses.

The board voted unanimously to reimburse Dana for the \$30 spent on memberships to **New Hampshire Old Graveyard Association** and **New Hampshire Cemetery Association**.

Dana will follow up with **BlueSky** regarding estimates for the upkeep of the recently cleaned cemeteries. A list was sent and estimates were requested mid-February.

Volunteer Update – Jenny corresponded with Robin McKinnon about possible volunteering. She was sent a list of available cemeteries. Jenny will also recommend Batchelder D-17 on Meetinghouse Hill Road.

Freese-Fogg on 107 was cleaned up in September, but still needs the tree taken down. Phil will call Jared Messina to get an estimate.

NuStone – Matt Bennett sent estimates for **Parade Cemetery** totaling **\$9,000**. We estimate approximately \$1,500 of this will come from our Maintenance Fund, with the balance coming out of individual trust funds. The company requires a 20% deposit (\$1800). Dana will contact the Trustees of the Trust Funds to find out what the procedure would be for releasing the deposit.

The board voted unanimously to hire NuStone for \$9,000. The board also voted unanimously to provide the required 20% deposit. The board voted unanimously to utilize as much money as possible from individual trust funds, with the balance of up to \$2,000 to come from the Maintenance Fund.

The board voted unanimously to contact **Representative and MBC chair Terry Roy regarding the care of veteran graves in Deerfield**. During the budgeting process, Mr. Roy offered his help with finding funding for the care of neglected cemeteries containing the remains of veterans. We will be sending along the estimates for the graves of Denyou (Civil War), Ring (War of 1812), and Menard (Civil War), all veterans buried in Parade Cemetery. The work would total **\$850**.

Our next meeting will be at 9:30 am on April 16th at the George B. White Building. This deviates from our usual schedule.

Meeting paused at 10:48 am and resumed ten minutes later at **Old Center Cemetery**. The board successfully located the rightful location (old section, leftmost corner) for the **headstone of Mary F. Davis** (mentioned above) and took photos. The field trip concluded, and the meeting adjourned at **11:45 am**.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dana van der Bijl, Secretary