

Meeting of the Deerfield, New Hampshire Cemetery Trustees

DRAFT MINUTES

October 20, 2021

Present: Rick Druckenmiller, Dana van der Bijl, Maureen Mann, Phil Bilodeau, Sam White

Absent: Tina St. Peter

Meeting called to order at **9:34 am**.

Citizen Comments – None

The board voted unanimously to **accept the September meeting minutes**.

There seems to be some confusion as to **which cemeteries are being maintained by Blue Sky**. According to our records, **Morrison Cemetery** is maintained by **Averell Landscaping**. **Blue Sky** takes care of **Old Center, Fellows-Sanborn, Haynes, Tilton, and Parade**. Rick will touch base with Blue Sky and clarify how often these properties are being visited.

Rick checked into a report from the Deerfield Police Department that a **stone had fallen over in Morrison Cemetery**. He said it does not appear to have been vandalism and was most likely epoxy failure. The name was not readable because the stone is face-down and too heavy to lift, but we will work from records to determine whose stone it is and see if there is any family around to have the monument repaired.

The board unanimously voted to pay **Jared Messina \$450 to remove a dead tree and a bush in Morrison cemetery**. Rick will complete a voucher and arrange for payment.

Dana has started a **detailed inventory of family plots at Parade Cemetery** and has completed the **Academy** section, the two **Marston** family sections, and the **Stevens** family plot. Detailed photos are taken of every monument/stone and recorded in a document that corresponds with the numbering on the Wasson survey from the 80s. Since the weather was good, these monuments were all brushed down and sprayed with Wet and Forget, which will safely and slowly release the years of built-up organic material on the monuments over the next six months.

Dana reached out to **Perry Brothers Monument Company** about their rates for monument repair/restoration but has not heard back. She will try to find other companies who do that kind of work.

Sam reported that the **Scouts** have already begun to work on cleaning up three cemeteries on South Road (**B-11 Rawlings, B-13 John Sanborn, and B-14 Woodman**) and that they ran into a little bit of a snag when all of them had poison ivy in various parts. Scout leader O'Neal went back and sprayed the areas to get rid of the poison ivy and the scouts will return to finish the job. Sam will request receipts so we can reimburse them for the money spent on the spray.

Maureen checked in with **Chief Duquette** again about the outcome of the **drunk driving incident at Fisk-Sandhill Cemetery** a few years back. If the town was given restitution money, it should be spent on that cemetery. He will be in touch. Two trustees visited the cemetery this week and reported that it is in terrible condition. A tree has fallen over the Mandigo section and damaged the fence and needs to be removed. According to **Jared Messina**, it

will take **over \$20,000 to remove the dangerous and dead trees from this cemetery**. Access is going to be an issue because of the narrow road that serves as the Right of Way.

There were also some **questions regarding ownership of Fisk-Sandhill**. The right-side portion seems to be in Bear Brook State Park. We noticed the trees are marked approximately two feet away from some of the graves. We will check the maps and attempt to clarify because there is also some ambiguity on the tax cards.

There is approximately **\$15,000 worth of ash borer damage** to the trees alongside the exit driveway to **Morrison**. Those trees need to come out ASAP.

The board took another pass at the **three warrant articles** being submitted for 2022. Dana will send to John Harrington for comment.

As decided at the last meeting, **our rules and regulations have been updated on the town website**.

Rick will check in with John Harrington to **encumber** any leftover funds from this year.

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 am. The next meeting will be held at the **GB White Building** on **Wednesday, November 17th at 9:30 am**.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana van der Bijl, Secretary