

# Meeting of the Deerfield, New Hampshire Cemetery Trustees

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## DRAFT MINUTES

**August 17, 2022**

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

**Citizens Present/Citizen Comments:** None

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

The board **voted unanimously to accept the minutes** of the **July** meeting.

The **Board of Selectmen** accepted the quote of **\$3,700** for the fencing at **Old Center Cemetery**. Pete sent the 50% deposit in. This will be paid using **Old Center Cemetery trust funds**.

**The ash-borer damaged trees at Morrison Cemetery** have been removed by J. Messina. This will be paid out of **Morrison Cemetery trust funds**.

**Cemetery evaluations:** Rick went to **Goodhue Poor Farm D-25**. Lots of tree work to be done. Stones are down. A neighbor mentioned it seems to be a popular place for teenagers to hang out. Group agrees we should speak to the owner of the property about cleanup/maintenance.

**Tenant-Collins C-15** on Middle Road seems well cared for, but who is the mystery caretaker? We should find out and thank them for their help! Stones are all standing. Rick noticed headstones along the outside of the rear wall. No record of them. We should follow up and see if they are new burials or extra headstones.

**Goodhue-Fellows D-23** on Mt. Delight is full of large trees that need work. Gate is intact but not working.

Rick got an estimate on **B-13 John Sanborn** (Tin Pot Rd/189 South) from **Gold Leaf** for **\$1475** to clean it up and remove the brush and debris. We should get more estimates to compare.

Ron will try to coordinate the **clean-up of Cram Cemetery C-07** with the Scouts. We will continue to attempt to get quotes from landscaping companies for the remaining town-owned cemeteries that have been evaluated so far. This work will be paid out of the **newly established trust fund** as needed.

**The board voted unanimously** to submit a **budget of \$56,401** for **2023**. This amount does not reflect the maintenance required for the “new” town owned cemeteries, but reflects the projected amount based on what we are now paying for **TNT** (after the first contractor failed to show). We will continue to clean up as many of the new town owned cemeteries as possible by utilizing trust funds and volunteer work. The **2024 budget** will be significantly larger and will include all cemeteries that have been rehabbed up until that point.

The group discussed the fact that **Dowst-Cate Cemetery D-09** turned out to not be a good spot for a columbarium. The construction would require the use of heavy construction equipment that would be impossible to get past the

stone walls of the existing cemetery. Archaeologist **Dick Boisvert** is planning on taking some core samples from some of the empty areas in the cemetery. There may be room there for additional burials.

The group discussed the possibility of creating an **Urn Garden** at **Old Center Cemetery**. This could utilize the existing plots, but the lines would be redrawn to reflect the smaller spaces needed to bury urns instead of coffins. Rick will ask Mark Young to put a **temporary hold on selling plots 40-62** (potential urn garden site) **and anything in sections K or L** (potential columbarium sites).

**Meeting adjourned at 10:56 am.**

The next meeting will be held at the **GB White Building** on **Wednesday, Sept 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am**. Phil let the group know in advance that he would not be able to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana van der Bijl, Secretary