

# Meeting of the Deerfield, New Hampshire Cemetery Trustees

## DRAFT MINUTES

**November 18, 2020**

**Present:** Rick Druckenmiller, Dana van der Bijl, Sam White, Tina St. Peter, and alternate Maureen Mann

**Guest:** Joanna Waring, Trustee of the Trust Funds **Absent:** Paul Murphy

Meeting was called to order at **9:30 am**. The board **accepted the minutes** of the October meeting.

**Citizen Comments** – None

The board invited **Trustee of the Trust Funds Joanna** Waring to discuss the usage of the cemetery trust funds. There are hundreds of “perpetual care” accounts going back more than a century, but the rules for their use are so restrictive that we are unable to utilize them. Thanks to Mrs. Waring, we now have a better understanding of the funds, but we are going to continue to work with the Trustees to streamline the process. The board thanks Mrs. Waring for her time and patience.

The board discussed the planned **expansion of the Cate Road cemetery**. John Harrington estimates that it will cost **\$70,000** for the surveying and site work needed. Rick will check with him to see if that estimate includes testing the site for ledge, water, or anything else that will have an impact on the expansion. Rick will also check with John Harrington regarding the preparation of a **warrant article**, and whether the article would come from the town or from the Cemetery Trustees, as the cemetery and the expansion area are on town-owned land.

The **new section of Old Center Cemetery** was discussed. **Jim Franklin** will be marking off the new plots, and we intend to ask **Blue Sky** to help plan and install the walkways in that section since they will be in charge of maintenance and will know what will work best.

**Tina** followed up on several **calls for new plots**. Rick will be sure to contact them.

We decided to work on advertising for a new **cemetery superintendent**. **Maureen** will ask Dick Snow for the job description they are using in Candia.

After surveying the prices of plots in other towns, it was decided that we should **raise the rates** to help offset the (approximately \$5,000) salary for a part time superintendent. We should be charging at least \$400 per grave and possibly more. The board **voted unanimously** to approach John Harrington and/or the BOS about raising the prices.

We will be skipping the December meeting. Beginning with **January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**, our meetings will be held on the **third Friday of each month at 9:30 am**.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.**

Respectfully submitted by Dana van der Bijl, Secretary