

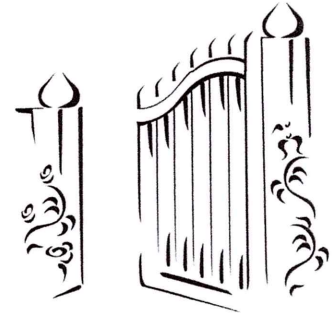


TRUSTEES OF CEMETERIES

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Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 7, 2023 – 7pm

Gilmanton Academy

503 Province Road, Gilmanton, NH

Present: Trustees Candace Daigle, Leonard (JR) Stockwell, Jr., Adam Mini, Alt and Daniel Redin, Alt.

Trustee John Dickey was not in attendance. Alternate Adam Mini was appointed to fill his position for this meeting.

Approval of Minutes – November 1, 2023

MOTION: On a motion by Adam Mini, seconded by JR Stockwell, it was voted unanimously to accept the minutes of November 1, 2023, as written. (3-0)

The members discussed setting a meeting schedule so that the same day each month (2nd Tues, 4th Thurs, etc.) a trustee meeting would be scheduled. If a month came with no business to conduct it could easily be cancelled. That way, members could put it on their calendar for a few months in advance. That would make it much easier to schedule a meeting instead of trying to match everyone's calendar at the last minute. Mondays and Wednesdays are not good as the Selectmen and Budget Committee use those dates. Tuesdays and Thursdays would probably be better days. We'll discuss in the spring.

Site Reports

Buzzell – Authorization from the Conservation Commission to repair the parking access remains outstanding as well as an estimate from Will Sanville. JR has talked to Will and an estimate will be coming.

Hatie Smith - When the Trustees first rediscovered this site, there was a one marker (Veteran 1861-1866) near an upright blank stone. Our earliest picture is 2003. In 2007 the Trustees contracted to surround the extent of what we believed was the burial ground (based on a deed reference) with granite posts and black chain. At that time, they discussed their concern about the safety of the marker given the site's remote location and being directly on a used trail. The marker was removed in 2007 and remains in Candace's possession. The Trustees discussed whether this was permanent, and whether the marker should be placed with the Historical Society, or whether there was some safer way to erect it. The Trustees decided to investigate having a replacement fabricated to keep the grave properly marked, but then clearly marking the original for safe keeping by the Historical Society. Given Vinnie Baiocchetti's recent investigation into this marker, he'll be contacted to see what he might find out.

Hillside

1. We received notice that Mr. Reifsnyder had blocked the driveway to Hillside, located on his property, because people were camping on his property adjacent to the cemetery, leaving debris and waste. Paul reported today that the blockade has been removed and he has not heard anything else from Mr. Reifsnyder.

2. The Roberts family may pre-install gravestones matching the existing stones along the right side of their 12-grave plot. They will provide additional information prior to committing.

Merrill

1. The metal gate had fallen and was removed by the Trustees for repair by Mickey Daigle in 1995. Subsequently, the Trustees decided to install a wooden gate due to the continual post movement. In 1997 a wooden gate was erected. When that failed in 2022, the Trustees decided not to replace the gate as they had similarly decided for Friends remaining metal gate. The members discussed final disposition of the initial iron gate. It will be correctly marked and given to the Historical Society for safe keeping.
2. Trustees have corresponded with Steve Morrison (Merrill donor) and Robert Ladd (GPR at Hilliard). Steve is still moving forward with a sign of names and locations of burials if he can determine that information. He will speak with Mr. Ladd about his experience at Hilliard and may use GPR to make that determination.

Tibbetts - JR met onsite with ArborTech. First quote was \$9,680 + \$900 option. He discussed options to decrease the cost. It was decided to amend the quote by trimming dead wood only where it is above headstones and starting at 4" instead of 2". Additionally, they will leave 1 dead tree inside the walls that is not endangering stones. They also discussed the option which is to remove 3 dead ash trees along the roadside in front of the wall.

MOTION: On a motion by JR Stockwell, seconded by Adam Mini, it was voted unanimously to accept ArborTech's 2nd quote dated November 6, 2023, in the amount of \$5,200 to prune deadwood 4" and greater from 11 trees of various species ranging in diameter from 10" to 38" with the primary focus being on parts of trees that are over headstones. In addition, 4 trees will be removed from inside the wall. Also, to approve the option of \$900 to remove 3 dead ash trees outside the wall along the road. (3-0)

Other Project Reports

Site Signs-are scheduled to be completed before the end of 2023 and installed in spring of 2024. Trustees will review the remaining 23 sites in the spring to decide what additional signs may be purchased in 2024.

Number of Trustees – At the Cemetery Trustees' request, the Selectmen agreed to place an Article on the 2024 Warrant asking the Town to authorize an increase in the number of Trustees from 3 to 5. It will be Article #14 on the Warrant. Once the warrant is published, if there is any discussion or concern raised on this matter, Candace will draft a fact sheet to be shared with voters.

Wages – The Trustees discussed the situation where work on a small site takes less than 30 minutes or anytime the time worked falls between half hours. Our employees are not paid a wage or stipend for travel time or time maintaining equipment, etc.; only time worked on a site.

MOTION: On a motion by Adam Mini, seconded by Candace Daigle, it was voted to set the minimum site time as 30 minutes and round up to the next hour any time that's 40 minutes or higher. (2-0-1) JR Stockwell abstained.

Town of Belmont – Candace has been requested to meet with the Belmont Selectmen to answer questions about the site abandonment process which their Cemetery Trustees have asked them to undertake. The selectmen requested info from us on the “benefits” that resulted from Gilmanton going through that process. Adam requested mor info as he would also like to attend.

NHOGA – The check for \$100 along with a thank-you letter has been sent to John Lord of NH Old Graveyard Association for the great stone repair workshop he taught and all the supplies he brought to use. Vinnie Baiocchetti has been trying to reach their member that handles applications for their supply grants.

Budget

Year-End – The Trustees reviewed a draft report showing year-end income, expenditures, and balances. Once the Town confirms these totals, a year-end transfer will be made to close out the temporary expense account from the Care Funds, Budget Lines and Expendable Trust Fund. Candace met with the Budget Committee last night and there was only one question. She noted that the Trustees should consider raising the number of wage hours during their 2025 budget appropriation discussions as employees worked an additional 50 hours this year which will closely deplete that line item.

Adjournment

MOTION: On a motion by Adam Mini, seconded by JR Stockwell, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:05pm. (3-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

