TOWN OF GILFORD

CEMETERY TRUSTEES

MEETING MINUTES

June 3, 2021 DRAFT

Attendance:

Trustees Pete Allen, Rae Mello-Andrews, and Kristin Snow and Town Administrator Scott Dunn and DPW Director Meghan Theriault were present.

Pete called the public meeting of the Cemetery Trustees to order at 4:00 pm at Pine Grove Cemetery.

Old Business

*Pine Grove trees:* Hayden McLaughlin from Belknap Landscape Company was present. The group discussed options for planting trees along the northern border of the cemetery. Hayden recommended Montrose Spire evergreens. He recommended grinding out the stumps left by the red pine trees and planting the new trees next spring. The group also looked at the damaged hedges along Belknap Mountain Road. Hayden recommended pruning the dead branches to allow the hedges to grow back to health. He will provide proposals.

The Trustees briefly adjourned the meeting and re-convened at Gilford Town Hall Conference Room at 4:40 pm. The attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the May 6, 2021 minutes made by Kristin and seconded by Pete. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Public Comment:

No members of the public were present.

Old Business:

*Status of cemeteries, staff, and* *contractors:* Jake Young has done a good job maintaining Pine Grove and McCoy Cemeteries. Meghan reported that the engine had to be replaced on the cemetery mower at a cost of about $1000. During the two weeks when the mower was being repaired, a rental mower was used. Meghan ordered signs to ‘pick up after your pet’ to be placed near Pine Grove Cemetery.

On May 19, 2021, the Trustees held a work session to walk-through all town maintained historic cemeteries. Aaron Alpert has been servicing the town-maintained Historic Cemeteries and all were in good condition. One broken headstone was noted in Ames Cemetery and a downed tree will be removed from Weeks Cemetery by DPW.

*Computerized cemetery file and map updates*: Kristin reported that she added GPS locations for all memorials in town-maintained cemeteries within the FindAGrave app. Persons trying to locate a burial location can use the app to be directed within about 50 feet of the gravestone or grave marker.

*Marking of lot lines in northeast corner of Pine Grove:* Meghan will meet with Pete and Kristin to pin lot lines in this section of the cemetery.

*Other Old Business:* None.

New Business:

*Recent Business:* One burial has occurred since the May meeting. There are multiple burials pending. During the month, the Trustees answered several requests for information and assisted with locations for marker placements. Scott reported that the Trustee’s Office has a new computer.

*Flags and Veterans bronze markers placed:* The Trustees held work sessions to place flags at all known Veteran graves in town-maintained cemeteries on May 19 (historic), May 22 (McCoy), and May 27 (Pine Grove). At Pine Grove, 100 bronze Veteran markers were placed and they look very good. The Trustees thanked the volunteers who assisted with flag placement at McCoy and Pine Grove Cemeteries. Removed flag tubes will be reused in McCoy and the historic cemeteries.

*Grant Cemetery volunteer:* Volunteer Bill MacLean plans to work on cleaning gravestones in Grant Cemetery this year, in addition to helping with cleanup of other historic cemeteries.

*Other New Business:* The Trustees are unable to attend the NH Cemetery Association in person meeting scheduled for July 21, 2021 in Stratham NH.

Upcoming Meetings:

The next monthly meeting of the Cemetery Trustees will be held Thursday, July 1, 2021 at 4:00 pm in the Town Hall Conference Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Snow, Secretary of the Cemetery Trustees

Approved by vote of the Cemetery Trustees on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2021.