

**Town of Gilford
Cemetery Trustee Minutes
Meeting in Supervisors/Trustees office of
Gilford Town Hall
47 Cherry Valley Road
March 31, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.**

Present:	Susan Leach	Chairperson
	Judy Cott	Vice Chairperson
	Dee Chitty	Secretary
	Sheldon Morgan	Cemetery Steward

Guests:	Frank Shaw	Laconia Monument Company
	Bob Dublois	Laconia Monument Company

Meeting was called to order: 1:30 P.M.

Review/Approval of minutes:

Motion was made by D. Chitty to approve the minutes, as written. Seconded by J. Cott. There was no further discussion and vote was taken. All were in favor of approval, motion passed. (Chitty/Cott)

New Business:

The Trustees extended a sincere Thank-You to S. Morgan for accepting the appointed position of Cemetery Sexton. RSA 289:7 states Cemetery Trustees may appoint a cemetery sexton who shall not be a trustee and who shall be responsible to the cemetery trustees for supervising work done in the cemeteries. However, it was discovered the actual definition of sexton pertains to digging graves in a churchyard. A steward is one who acts as a supervisor of property for others.

F. Shaw and B. Dublois briefed the group on current concerns for Pine Grove Cemetery. B. Dublois expressed concern over the cemetery rules he had. The trustees told B. Dublois the rules are currently being worked on and will be revised before the cemetery reopens. F. Shaw relayed current problems with marker sizes. Both Dublois and Shaw are interested in preparing the cement foundations needed for markers and monuments. They stated Mark Hubbard will take additional time to get the foundations in place, often creating delays for them. They quoted the group a price of \$40. per cubic foot of foundation installed. They also

explained some of the knowledge regarding perpetual care and different stone sizes they have learned over many years. Bob Dublois stated he would like to donate a 38" white marble bench, to be placed in the spring of 2011 at the park area planned for the Potter Hill Road veteran's island. His only request would be that the words "stop and say thanks!" be inscribed on the bench. He said, "Kids, and people today don't realize or remember the sacrifice and they need to stop and pay their respect." S. Morgan thanked both F. Shaw and B. Dublois for offering to donate. The group thanked them for coming and sharing their concerns and information.

The group reviewed the 2006 Pine Grove pricing received from Wilkinson Beane. Dee relayed the information from the funeral home. They have requested an updated list. They also asked that any prior arraignments and pricing be honored. All agreed. Many have already paid and it would be unfair to family members to increase charges prior to the 2011 spring price list being revised and sent to Wilkinson-Beane, Dewhirst, and other area funeral homes. Also it would be helpful to list the new prices on the town website under cemeteries. It was so noted.

The group worked on proposed pricing. More information is being gathered and finalizing the figures was deferred to the next meeting.

The group reviewed the spring burials.

Old Business:

Dee pasted out the revised rules for Pine Grove and the Historic Cemeteries. Discussion followed. All agreed we should defer finalizing rules until the group has met with any and all people who wish to express concerns.

Discussion on lot sizes followed. The group is concerned with old lot sizes compared to today with land shortage. Many extra-large lots were sold back when the land was more plentiful. All agreed that in the very near future additional land should be secured for a cemetery. RSA 289:2 states "Municipalities are to provide one or more suitable cemeteries for the internment of deceased persons within its boundries".

Sheldon reported he had repeatedly tried to get pricing on surveying

Pine Grove Cemetery. He has called the firms of Fred Wheeler Surveying, Steve Smith & Associates, and Ron Johnson Surveying. When he spoke with Mr. Johnson he was told that a perimeter survey should be done and could be rather costly. This would allow him to have specific control points by which to tie detail to. Sheldon suggested waiting until money is available for this type of work.

Dee passed out a copy of the selectmen approved cemetery budget. March 23, 2011.

The next Cemetery Trustee meeting is scheduled for April 7th, 2011, 9:00 A.M. Super/Trust Office of Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

A True Record Attest:

Dee L. Chitty
Secretary

c: Town Clerk: Original minutes File