

**Town of Gilford, NH
Cemetery Trustee Minutes
Meeting in Super/Trust office of
Gilford Town Hall
47 Cherry Valley Road
April 7th, 2011**

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

Guest: Mark Hubbard Cemetery Services, Chichester, NH

Meeting was called to order: 8:59 a.m.

Review/Approval of minutes:

 Motion was made by S.Leach 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. (Leach/Cott)

New Business:

- | Mark Hubbard answered a list of questions the group had concerning burial openings, scheduling, and the land at Pine Grove Cemetery. Mark has been working at Pine Grove for many years now and was able to provide needed information. The group thanked Mark for coming and sharing his knowledge. It was agreed M. Hubbard and D.Chitty would begin work at Pine Grove as soon as necessary.

- | Discussion on a request for information from Penny Pitou. The Pitou family bought three lots and are in the process of pre-arraigning final wishes. Past records appear to be unclear. The group decided to research further for this family and plan on an early spring investigation.

Old Business:

- | The group reviewed and discussed the list of upcoming burials.

Currently there are nine scheduled for early May. Wilkinson Beane Funeral Home had stated they have others. D. Chitty will be the cemetery contact person. A drop box is being installed in the Public Works foyer for after hour service. D. Chitty and S. Morgan will handle lot sales, S. Leach will handle all paper files, J.Cott will handle computer files.

S. Morgan was dismissed. He had a health officer meeting.

- | Review and work continued on the proposed pricing worksheet. Most figures are now finalized. Weekend figures were deferred to the next meeting.
- | Discussion followed on whether or not to keep vaults/cement liners within the cemetery rules. Although funeral homes are selling cremation urns/containers that do not require vaults M. Hubbard had cautioned the group on the disadvantages of not having one. He has witnessed urns being picked up in backhoe buckets. He also stated it is much harder to find an urn without a vault. This can cause concern when families require disinterment or two plus more burials in one lot. S. Leach and J.Cott stated they would like the vault requirement to remain active. D.Chitty stated she was concerned about the rising cost of burial. She noted that M.Hubbard hand digs the graves and only uses machinery when large, heavy rocks are involved. She felt without the liners more burials would fit in one full lot. Review continued. D.Chitty questioned why funeral homes sell urns that do not require a vault if there were the above concerns. S. Leach was concerned about finding buried cremations. J.Cott mentioned the lots may not always be hand dug in the future. Although D.Chitty was hesitant, the group decided to keep the vault requirements within the cemetery rules.
- | Discussion on the lack of needed land continued. Mark Hubbard stated he felt the cemetery was getting very short on space and should begin to think of possible solutions in the very near future. His suggestion was creating an annex to Pine Grove if possible. The Trustees noted that anyone ,who has experience in the active cemetery ,has had concerns over the

need for additional burial space. Burials within road space has already begun over past years. RSA 289:2 states "Municipalities are to provide one or more suitable cemeteries for the interment of deceased persons within its boundaries". The trustees are also concerned about the shortage of suitable land. Cemeteries require easy digging, easiest being sand. Rock, ledge, water are all concerns. It was noted that "bull pines love sand." S. Leach mentioned speaking to a member of the conservation commission to see if a cemetery was possible on an appropriate piece of conservation land, or if they know of property in Gilford that maybe suitable. D. Chitty stated the selectmen should be informed before this becomes an immediate need. Perhaps with help from Scott Dunn, Town Administrator, and Sheldon Morgan, a serious search can begin again. It was noted that a past donation of land for the use of a cemetery was declined. It has been many years since that proposal and the need has intensified since. Burial lots currently sold will be in roadways. Pine Grove cannot bury in every road way since access is a necessity.

- v Spring meeting for the NH Cemetery Association is 4/13/11.

The next Cemetery Trustee meeting is scheduled for April 14th, 2011.

9:00 a.m. Super/Trust Office in the Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

A True Copy Attest:

Dee Chitty
Secretary

C: Town Clerk: Original minutes file