

The Thornton Cemetery Trustees held a meeting at 4 pm, on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, at the Sugar Shack, Route 175, Thornton, NH.

In attendance were Trustees: Peter Laufenberg, Geraldine Benton-Carbonneau, Michael Benton (newly elected trustee) and Superintendent of Cemeteries, Brad Benton.

A motion was made and accepted to read last meeting's minutes. The minutes were read by Geraldine and accepted by a unanimous vote.

Geraldine reported the sale of cemetery lots in both Mad River and Pine Grove Cemeteries. Geraldine and Brad had met Polly and Holly Burbank at Mad River Cemetery, so they could purchase lots G-4, G-5, and G-6. Geraldine and Brad also fielded questions from Ginny Dunstan about types of shrubs/trees that might be planted on the Dunstan lot. Geraldine and Brad also met with Frances (Crosby) Bates and husband Norman to look at her lot #75. Brad did some checking determining that one full burial could accommodate this space. Fran and Norman Bates decided to purchase lot I-7. Fran asked if one of her children needed a plot could the children use this space. Geraldine and Brad agreed the Crosby lot (75) could be used for Ralph Crosby's children. Geraldine has fielded several phone calls from Brenda Boyce who needed a letter to prove her mother-in-law had purchased a lot at Pine Grove Cemetery. Geraldine wrote a letter explaining the lot, size, location and when purchased then letter notarized by Desiree Mahurin, from the town office. Brenda Boyce stopped at Geraldine's house to pick up the letter. Geraldine had several calls from John Bean who has 2 cremations (John's wife and son) for burial in the Saunders lot at Mad River Cemetery. Geraldine and Brad checked the remaining ground making sure the lot would hold 4 cremations (the two at present John's wife and son in addition space for John and another son). Brad and Geraldine agreed the lot could accommodate the 4 cremations. Emmons Funeral Home called about the Kirby lot #76 at Mad River. Patricia Kirby had passed away and the caller was looking for information to set up burial. Helen Steele passed away and her daughter Cindy McCauley called Geraldine to let her know the graveside service would be May 22 at Pine Grove. Geraldine spoke with Andy and Burt Downing about their sister Karen Downing (Tetley) who passed away, Geraldine let them know there was space in the parents (Betty and Eddie) lot. Andy said they thought Karen would be buried in the sister (Rebecca Farnsworth) lot, which is the other half of the parent's lot. Amy from Peabody Funeral Home called to make pre-arrangements for Josephine Holub, who was in hospice. Geraldine reassured Amy Josephine could rest in her parents' lot (Holub) at Pine Grove. Cindy McCauley stopped at Geraldine's to see if there is room between her parents and brother's lot. Geraldine let Cindy know she would take the question to Cemetery Meeting to get the answer. Geraldine got a call from Jim Marsh wanting to know about a lot at Pine Grove. Geraldine returned his call leaving a message but has not heard from Jim. Gail Lehoullier called representing the American Legion wanting to know about flags for the veterans at the cemeteries. Geraldine returned her call but has not heard back from Gail.

Geraldine brought it to the attention of the other trustees, the flag at Mad River needs to be replaced. Brad also mentioned the flag was in dire need of replacement. Peter asked whose responsibility it was to replace the flag. Both Geraldine and Brad mentioned the town selectmen budgeted for the flagpoles and flags. Peter was going to check into it as he is a member of the select board.

Brad mentioned the prices for cemetery lots need to be reviewed and increased as several funeral homes mentioned we (Thornton) are underpriced. Geraldine stated that prices have not increased since 2015. Peter and Geraldine would check with surrounding towns to get a cemetery price list for their town.

Michael had declared to look at comparable towns same size etc. to compare the cemetery prices to Thornton. It will be researched and discussed at the next cemetery meeting.

Peter had a copy of the approved cemetery budget for year ensuing 2021. Brad reported he had started clean-up at Blake Mountain, repaired stones at both Pine Grove and Mad River. Brad had ordered more glue (cement) for repair of the stones. Brad said he has not presented a bill to the town but in the next couple weeks would do so. Brad also mentioned there was a couple large stones at Mad River that would need a machine to straightened them. Michael mentioned using an engine hoist with a plywood platform. Brad thought it might work. Brad is going to contact Top Notch, Floyd to see when Floyd can cut trees at the cemetery. Brad wanted to speak to Floyd to be put on Floyd's schedule to have the trees cut.

Peter had a copy of an agreement for cutting trees on the cemetery and Parker Uhlman property line. Geraldine said she would meet with Parker to get the agreement signed prior to the trees being cut by Top Notch.

Cindy Powers was discussed since she has some uncertainty her mother's ashes was not place in her grandparents' lot. Both Geraldine and Brad have met with her to rectify the situation. Also, Peter and Geraldine did look at the lot in the fall 2020 thinking the cremation set in the lot proper. No one has had any correspondence from Cindy over the winter months. The trustees agreed they would work to satisfy Cindy with this issue.

Peter asked about the monies for perpetual care. Brad explained perpetual care is a thing of the past. All lots in the cemetery are treated equal this way the cemetery's appearance is viewed as one entity by the towns people. Peter spoke about the trust fund monies that are in an account held by the trustee of the trust funds, Richard Baker (contact person). Geraldine said she spoke to Richard Baker about the ten thousand for the cutting of the trees by Top Notch and the monies are readily available. There is a CD that matures in December 2021 that can be used for preparing new roads in the newer section of Pine Grove.

No other business was discussed by the cemetery trustees.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.