

# Cemetery Trustee Meeting Minutes

## November 7, 2024

- Meeting opens with Joyce Keegal, Jim Hajjar, Albert “Skip” Belanger, Jillian Benedix present.
- **Motion:** Jillian, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim to have Skip as voting member
- **Motion** by Skip, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim to accept the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as presented. Jim will update the minutes on website to no longer show as ‘draft’.
- **Signed** deeds and signed light bill.
- **Cemetery Activity**
  - **Website** – Jillian verified latest Rules and Regulations are posted on town website
  - **Superintendent Fall Report** - Joyce reported that
    - **Irrigation System** - System is off (lines blown out with air)
    - **Fall Cleanup** – Fall Cleanup is complete, garden cleaned out, lawn crews will return to finish up leaves
- **Other Business**
  - **Mapping & GPR update** – Jim will email GPS coordinates of Poor Farm Cemetery to Mark Kennedy of planning board to prepare for updating GIS maps with newly discovered cemetery.
- **Future Planning, calendar**
  - **Alternate Trustees** – Jim will invite his neighbor, and Skip will invite his children if any are interested in becoming Cemetery Trustee Alternates for next year.
  - **Poor Farm**
    - **Landscaping & Marking** - Joyce reported that crews do not want to plant any grass seed now. Trustees will meet at Poor Farm Cemetery on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:30PM to place white PVC pipes over metal pins that were set (for easier visibility). We will also clear brush and saplings from the cemetery and dump material at town yard.
    - **Abandonment Process** – Joyce has prepared the official public notice as required by RSA (and reviewed by Town legal counsel). Will post the notice on town website, in kiosk at town office, and in December issue of Brentwood Newsletter to meet legal/RSA requirements of abandonment process. Trustees unanimously approved the name of the abandoned cemetery to be Brentwood Poor Farm Cemetery.

- **DNA Doe Project** – Joyce read into record the email sent from UNH regarding moving forward with DNA testing of the three teeth that are still in possession of UNH (see attached). Trustees and Superintendent agreed to send an approval to UNH to have the testing started. Jillian will send the notice as the Town Administrator is on leave. The approval email will clearly state that any results from the DNA testing shall be sent only to the Town of Brentwood care-of Jillian.
- **Requirements for Future New Town Cemetery** – Jillian will post the New Cemetery Requirements presentation to our Town Website. The Trustees will continue to evaluate potential properties that are available in Town. Jim will try to find a way to have an evaluation done on any potential site to assure it is suitable/feasible to support burials.
- **Wreaths Across America** – Joyce reviewed that status of the wreaths donated and volunteers who have agreed to help. Students at the Seacoast School of Technology (SST) will be there. Our volunteer musician may be able to bring a small band this year!
- **Motion** Jillian second by Skip to adjourn at 6:26 PM.

Next Meeting is on Thursday December 5, 2024 at 5PM at Town Office.

# Official Correspondences



Joyce Keegal <bwoodnhcem@gmail.com>

## Brentwood samples

3 messages

**Amy Michael** <Amy.Michael@unh.edu> Tue, Nov 5, 2024 at 11:31 AM  
To: Joyce Keegal <bwoodnhcem@gmail.com>, Jennifer Randolph <jennifer.randolph@dnadoproject.org>, DDP Case Managers <DDPCaseManagers@dnadoproject.org>  
Cc: Alexander Garcia-Putnam <Alex.GarciaPutnam@unh.edu>

Hi all,

I'm putting us all on one email chain so Joyce can inform us about the decision to move forward with testing the three teeth from Brentwood.

To recap, we have reburied everyone but retained three teeth for testing. The individual whose teeth we retained does not appear to be white from the skeletal midface (we could of course be wrong about this, but it's interesting!). We have been contacted by two folks from out west who have traced their family genealogy back to Brentwood and had ancestors who likely died at the farm (whether that's any of the 9 people we reburied, we don't know of course).

Joyce, you are welcome to jump in here with any further questions. As far as my lab/UNH are concerned, this is just a human interest story with a potentially really neat conclusion. I suppose if DDP identified this person, it may be interesting to write about or possibly present at the NH Archaeological Society meeting, but beyond that there is no direct "benefit" to my lab/UNH. Since we have donated over \$2000 in lab funds to DDP for other cases, we will likely not donate to the Brentwood case unless we come into some more grant money.

Thanks and I look forward to hearing from everyone about next steps. Joyce, if you could reply ALL to this email with your response that'd be great so we can all see the same info!

Amy

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Amy Michael, Ph.D.  
University of New Hampshire  
Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology  
Co-Director, Forensic Anthropology Identification and Research Lab (F.A.I.R.)

Donate to the UNH F.A.I.R. Lab to fund cold case identifications! <https://bit.ly/3GCZPEK>



Joyce Keegal <bwoodnhcem@gmail.com>  
To: Amy Michael <Amy.Michael@unh.edu>

Wed, Nov 6, 2024 at 9:25 AM