

Cemetery Trustee Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2024

- Meeting opens with Joyce Keegal, Jim Hajjar, Albert “Skip” Belanger, Jillian Benedix present.
- **Motion:** Jim, 2nd by Jillian to have Skip as voting member
- **Motion** by Jillian, 2nd by Skip to accept the November 7th meeting minutes as presented. Jim will update the minutes on website to no longer show as ‘draft’.
- **Signed** deed and signed light bill.
- **Cemetery Activity**
 - **Website** – Jillian will update list of Cemetery Trustees on Town webpage
 - **Superintendent Fall Report** - Joyce reported that
 - **Fall Cleanup** – Fall Cleanup is complete. Will pull up police and firefighter flags. American flags remain until after wreaths ceremony.
 - **Perpetual Care** – Will review next meeting
- **Other Business**
 - **Disinterment Conversation** – Next of kin has requested to disinter cremated remains from a family plot in Tonry cemetery for the purpose of scattering the remains on the family plot. Rules and regulations make no provision for scattering of remains in our cemetery. There is a policy statement from Cemetery Trustees dated January 2020 regarding Scattering of Ashes which can be utilized on a special case-by-case basis. Joyce will notify next of kin that he needs to get disinterment permit from funeral director and State of NH (probate court) approval (if needed).
- **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** – Skip did not place white PVC over metal rods that were set. No rush, this can be done anytime or in spring.
 - **Abandonment Process** – Per NH RSA Section 289:20 Official public notice printed in BNL December edition that will be delivered to homes on December 11th. Process states 60-90 days later, Select Board must read the public notice. Will request that be done by SB at their meeting on Feb 11th.

The Cemetery Trustees will then hold a public hearing regarding the Brentwood Poor Farm Cemetery as part of their February meeting on February 13th. Once the public hearing is completed, the Trustees will request that per RSA 289:20 they declare the cemetery abandon.

If any descendants were located and grant permission, or if no descendants were located, then, after a public hearing, the municipality may declare the burial ground abandoned by a majority vote of the selectmen or city councilmen present and voting

- **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** – Joyce and Jim will meet with landowner week of December 16th on South Road to evaluate possible new cemetery location.
- **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. Wreaths should be delivered on December 10th. Will try to have them delivered to Town Yard. Joyce will notify Jim and Jillian if she needs help on that day.
- **Other Business** – Skip asked about remains (three teeth) that UNH has sent for DNA analysis and whether remains will be returned to Brentwood afterwards. Joyce informed us that the three teeth will not be returned as they are pulverized as part of the analysis process.
- **Motion** Jillian second by Jim to adjourn at 6:34 PM.

Next Meeting is on Thursday January 9, 2024 at 5PM at Town Office.