

Cemetery Trustee Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2025

- The meeting opened with Jim Hajjar, Joyce Keegal, Jillian Benedix, Skip Belanger, and Caleb Labbe present.
- Motion by Jim, second by Jillian to make Skip a voting member for tonight's meeting.
- **Signed light bill** – Jim, Jillian, Skip signed late electric bill.
- **No deeds** were presented to trustees, several will be coming in spring
- **Motion** by Jim, 2nd by Skip to accept the February 20th meeting minutes as presented with correct date at top and removal of erroneous last sentence Jim will update the minutes and update the website to no longer show as 'draft'.
- **Cemetery Activity**
 - **Public Hearing and Abandonment Process** – The public hearing was held on February 20th with no person presenting themselves as possible descendants. The Select Board voted on February 25th to declare the Brentwood Poor Farm Cemetery as abandoned per NH RSA 289:20. Joyce will follow up with her contacts to determine the next steps in getting the deeds and GIS map updated to reflect the abandoned Brentwood Poor Farm Cemetery. The Trustees and Superintendent will review and update if needed, the cemetery rules and regulations regarding public access to the cemetery.
 - **Veasey Binder** - Joyce presented one copy of the Veasey Cemetery binder/records to Skip to be sent to the Brentwood Historic Society. Joyce has one copy with the cemetery records. There was a discussion regarding perhaps making copies of all cemetery binders for display at the library.
 - **Tonry Section 3 map** - Joyce shared the updated Tonry Section 3 map. The original map that was provided to the Town contains an extra row that does not exist in the actual cemetery. Joyce has since removed the row and updated the section 3 map to reflect the actual cemetery layout.
- **Other Business**
 - **Town Elections** – as no one signed up to run for the vacant Cemetery Trustee position, Skip decided to run as a write in candidate. Skip advertised this in a BNL candidate statement in the March issue. Jim has been sharing this information with residents and voters as he is also running for budget committee. Jillian and Jim will post reminders on Facebook the Sunday and Monday before the election on March 11th to spread the word to write in vote Skip for Cemetery Trustee.

- **Cy Pres** – Joyce reviewed the Dec 21st balance of the Tonry perpetual care income balance was \$104,892. Joyce sent a letter to the NH Department of Justice Trust Unit requesting that we be allowed to utilize the excess funds for infrastructure improvements in Tonry cemetery.

- **Future Planning, calendar**

- **Requirements for Future New Town Cemetery** –

Rob Wofchuck is working with Bruce Stevens in proceeding to have the Town accept both lots from the Stevens property as a gift. Rob has requested a meeting with Jim, Joyce, and Bruce on April 8th. The Trustees will be sure to address the issue on the 2.5 acre lot being donated as being physically in Kingston NH and not in Brentwood. RSA 289:2 I(a) states *The operation and maintenance of all cemeteries owned and maintained by the municipality shall be in the charge of the cemetery trustees.* The Trustees will assure that all legal documents are in place to assure that Brentwood will own and be responsible for the cemetery lot that is in Kingston.

Skip asked about plaque for the burial ground. Joyce will check availability and pricing.

Skip also will ask the Brentwood Historic Society to investigate with the Portsmouth organization regarding possible African Americans who may have been at the Brentwood Poor Farm.

- **Opening date** – Joyce is planning to open the cemetery on April 1st depending on weather and condition of grounds.

- **Additional items** Joyce explained her employment situation with the Town of Brentwood given her leave of absence and need to work remotely. The Trustees discussed that we want to continue to have Joyce as our Superintendent of Cemeteries and offered that she could continue to work remotely when appropriate. Motion by Jim and second Jillian to send letter to select board informing them of the desire of the Trustees to keep Joyce as superintendent for six hours per week regardless of the status of her other Town employment positions.

- **Motion** Skip second by Jillian to adjourn at 5:55 PM.

Next Meeting is on Thursday April 10, 2025, at 5PM at Town Office.