

Cemetery 8/22/2020 Minutes - APPROVED
Franconia Cemetery Trustees
Location: The Pavilion, Academy Street, Franconia NH

Meeting called to order at 9:20a.m. by Chair Mary Brubaker

Attendees: Mary Brubaker, Robert "Chris" Collman and Jayne O'Connor. There were no members of the public present

1. Minutes from 7/23/2020. Motion by Chris to approve as corrected. Second by Mary. Approved unanimously by voice vote.
2. The Trustees reviewed a section of an 1860 map which appeared in the Sarah Welch book "The History of Franconia," which appears to show a cemetery on Profile Road between the campground and Tina Peabody's house.
3. The Trustees were reminded that anything which cannot spend the winter in the shed (such as the D/2 stone cleaner and batteries for the power tools) should be stored in the Cemetery closet at the Town Hall.
4. There were no sales or burials this month
5. Penny told Jayne that the golf cart and trailer works great for the cemetery, and thanks the Trustees very much for acquiring them There is no date yet for expanding the shed door for the golf cart.
6. There was a motion by Mary to pay Sexton Penny Keeler \$150 for use of her truck, and clothing reimbursement for this summer. Second by Jayne. Approved unanimously by voice vote.
7. The Cemetery continues to receive accolades for the work on the front gate. Universal approval for the work by the forge, and for renovating the historic gate. Jayne says she often see folks stop to take a closer look, and even take photos.
8. Fence and trees. Growing and overhanging trees have interrupted the fence in several locations, and the fence is heavy with moss and lichen because of the shade from the trees. The fence has not been painted in many years.

Eric Meth and Bill O'Connor spent considerable volunteer time clearing brush, pruning back trees and overhanging branches. Bill has 149 hours in July and August for fence repair, painting, brush & tree pruning, clearing and building simple shelves in the shed. Jayne is unsure if Eric keeps track of his volunteer hours, but he has many.

The total cost for fence work to date is under \$200, which includes 4 gallons of stain as well as nuts & bolts for repairing and reattaching the fence posts and sections. It was not budgeted for this year, but will come out of the gift Barbara Holt provided. Bill used a few spare pickets from the shed, and donated from his spare lumber pile some pieces to repair the fence sections. Low hanging branches were removed near the Hultgren lot where vehicles travel over the lot line. A corner fence post would help protect the graves. Mary suggested we put a fence corner soon.

Penny has been removing small trees along the fence. Jayne sent an email to the Fox Hill co-op

explaining the work being done along the fence, and included a photo showing the property line, which is about 32" from the fence posts. The email also noted that discarded items found along the fence are being taken to the dump or set closer to the homes.

This work should help keep the fence in good shape longer. It now appears the larger problem trees are on Cemetery property.

Overhanging birches were also removed at the top of hill where vehicles enter Range 11 from the main cemetery

1. Budget discussion. Jayne had Penny come in early this year since the weather was good in the spring, with the intention of having her work less hours per week as the season went on. However, Penny has been overseeing the volunteers and the tree pruning project, so her hours have not decreased. She will give Penny the hours remaining and let her budget her time, reminding her she has flags to do and cleanup and check closing list.

Jayne will get a full list of invoices to see how the account compares to the budget the Trustees had for the Town Report. She will ask Jenny to make copies of everything in the file for her in the future.

7. The old gravel road by the picket fences is becoming grassy again - Corey says he can run the tractor down it with the Box Grader to scrape up the grass by the roots, and it should be done twice a year. It appears we would have had better results had we removed the grass before adding gravel to the road. All the gravel roads need the York rake used to smooth them out. Jayne will ask Penny to remind him, and ask Kim to put it on Corey's list. Mary feels the grass in the middle of the road gives it a charming, old fashioned look.

8. Trevor LaPetite has difficulty mowing the Willow Cemetery as the hot weather means the parking lot is full and he can't get his truck and trailer in there. Penny suggested he go early in the day. This helped, as he was able to mow without a problem.

9. Chris has continued his stone cleaning around the Dow and Priest lots and It's amazing what a difference it makes on those old stones. He has helped a couple others learn about proper stone cleaning.

10. The staff got a good reminder that bears are pretty comfortable in the cemetery. Penny stopped at the Town garage behind the cemetery while headed to the Transfer Station, and a bear climbed into the back of her pickup truck. It took a few minutes to get it out so she could continue. She said it was a single cub, so could have been one of the twins that had been visiting the Cemetery earlier this year

11. Concerning the on-going question of burials at Elmwood for people who died prior to 1871 when the Cemetery was founded, Sarah Welch, in her book "A History of Franconia, N.H." refers to people being moved from Willow to Elmwood when the new cemetery opened. It is unfortunate she gave no source for that information.

Next meeting set for September 16 at 9 am.

Meeting adjourned 11:05 am