



**Cemetery Trustees
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 16, 2017
APPROVED**

The Trustees of the Town Cemeteries met on February 16, 2017 at the Warner Town Hall. In attendance were: Gerald Courser, Penny Courser, Mary Cogswell, Ken Cogswell, and Don Wheeler. Also in attendance were Lane Monroe and Gary Young, the cemetery custodians.

The meeting began at 7:00PM with a presentation by Lane Monroe of a photographic review via computer of the restoration work done on various headstones over the past year. Lane and Gary described in detail the various steps taken to restore and straighten marble, slate, and granite headstones, methods learned from other towns and workshops offered by the N.H. Gravestone Association. They expressed gratitude to Warner Power for their support and the purchase of metal supplies, such as braces and brackets that were used to support headstones.

The next order of business was the discussion of the proposed budget for 2017. The Trustees would like to continue the allocation of \$5000.00 for headstone restoration, with major work to be done in the Schoodac Cemetery. Gerald Courser said that based on past years, a continuation of \$13,000.00 for the annual maintenance of town cemeteries (except Pine Grove) was appropriate, with \$900.00 from that total designated for the Parade Ground Cemetery. A separate total of \$8500.00 for Pine Grove Cemetery maintenance would come from the designated Pine Grove Cemetery Trust Funds. If that amount count not be met by the low interest rates, then the town would fill the gap. A separate fee of \$1200.00 would continue to be paid to the American Legion for the annual maintenance of outlying cemeteries. The total budget requested would be \$27,700.00.

All 30 cemeteries are maintained with the same degree of care, regardless of perpetual care status. The cemeteries are mowed, trimmed and raked 8 times a year, or once a month as determined by the weather. There is an annual fall clean-up, and a spring clean-up if needed. Maintenance begins in April and ends in November. All cemeteries are cleaned before Memorial Day, done again for Father's Day, the Fourth of July, and ends with the fall clean up.

It should be noted that Gary and Lane donate their time to mow and clean the areas when funerals are scheduled. In the process of general maintenance, they also make improvements around stonewalls, remove limbs and excess brush, and piles of leaves. The Cemetery Trustees are very pleased with their work and personal dedication to the maintenance of Warner's cemeteries.

Future projects include tree removal in various cemeteries. There was also a discussion about the restoration of the wooden gates to the Davisville Cemetery. The gates will need to be examined (they were removed years ago and stored in former trustee Robert Shoemaker's barn), and measurements taken to determine if car and truck access through the narrow stonewall entrance and exit can be done without damage to the vehicles.

The meeting ended with a discussion about appropriate record keeping, details on invoices, Trustee signage and submission of invoices to the town office, and duplicate invoice copies for the Trustees. Future discussions with the Town Administrator and Selectmen will allow us to evaluate and comply with the Town's requirements for transparency.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary E. Cogswell
Trustee of the Town Cemeteries