

## Canterbury Cemetery Trustees

Minutes from April 12, 2022 meeting and Public Hearing, Meeting House

Present: John Goegel, Chairman; Jan Cote and Sam Papps, Trustees; Kent Ruesswick, Sexton; Mark Stevens, Cemetery Historian. Also attending: guests Annette Burgess, Southwest Road; Lance Messinger, Baptist Hill Road; Teresa Wyman, Shaker Road.

Chairman Goegel opened the meeting at 9 a.m., and greeted the guests. He made a motion to open the public hearing at 9:01 a.m., seconded by Sam.

Mr. Goegel then introduced the Trustees, Sexton and Historian. The two issues to be discussed in the Public Hearing were the addendum created by the Trustees to the Bylaws, to resume burials at Shell Meetinghouse Cemetery, and also increasing the price to purchase a grave lot in Canterbury's cemeteries.

The addendum of rules for SMC were read by Mr. Goegel, and then he opened the floor for comment.

Teresa Wyman asked why no flowers would be allowed in the cemetery, echoed by Annette Burgess. John noted at present, there are no flowers or bushes at SMC, and this keeps it simple and plain. Easier to maintain.

Lance Messinger asked about the grade of the cemetery, does the terrain interfere with the headstones, or are they vandalized? John replied that the frost heaving the ground commonly causes the older stones to shift and fall over. As for the grade, it is what it is and the plan is to retain it as it is with no alterations. He then noted this might make interest in the cemetery limited. Lance asked how many lots could be achieved there, and John replied there were about 100 lots available. Kent noted that five cremain burials could be achieved in one 4' x 10' grave. John stated there were about 400 square feet available.

John went on to state that Joanne Copp, a neighbor on Baptist Hill Road, had phone communications and raised concerns about the cemetery, where some of her Pickard ancestors are interred, but that her questions had been answered. She could not attend the hearing, but was in favor of the project.

Kent asked if the new monuments for the lots sold would still be run by the Trustees and John replied yes. Charlie Beede is scheduled to make repairs to the stones in the cemetery, and the question arose if he could also set new monuments as well as repair the old ones. The consensus was no, it would be a lot to ask him to do both projects at the same time. Kent noted Charlie was working on the Johnson's headstone at the Maple Grove, the corner markers and foundation were already set.

Mark Stevens brought up discussion on the second entrance, down on the Shell Meetinghouse Road. The entrance would be for machinery, like a monument truck or maintenance equipment, to access the cemetery. There was a comment about preserving the historic scenic view, and Jan Cote asked if the cost outweighed the value of the entrance? John contemplated the number of monuments to be set, and noted that they would only be as large as necessary. The visual impact

Final accepted at 5/17/22 meeting s.p.

was important. Discussion ensued about Kevin Fife building the barway into the cemetery, and Kent would talk to him.

John Goegel announced the oral portion of the Shell Meetinghouse Cemetery Public Hearing was complete, and it would be open for thirty days to receive written testimony. The hearing would be concluded at the May 17, 2022 Trustees Meeting. Sam spoke on the cost of a lot currently, comparing to other towns in the area. The Town sells lots at the Maple Grove, full grave lots 4'x10' for \$300 each, and cremation lots (for four cremations) for \$200 each. The Trustees will be approaching the Town to provide additional burial space in the expansion, and this is a good time to raise the price to get a greater return for the project. \$400 a grave will help defray the cost of the expansion considerably. John and Kent described the project to the guests.

Teresa asked if there was a list of people who want to be buried at Shell Meetinghouse Cemetery. Leidingers, Goegels, others. She said her father expressed interest many years ago but was not able to buy a space there. It was noted that the Trustees would buy back space at the Maple Grove from families wishing to be interred at SMC. John recessed the Public Hearing at 9:41 a.m., to be reconvened at 9 a.m. on May 17, 2022. The guests were invited to stay.

John made a motion to accept the November 17, 2021 minutes as presented. Jan seconded. No discussion. Vote was taken and motion passed. Minutes placed on file.

John made a motion to accept the February 15, 2022 and March 15, 2022 work session minutes as amended. Sam seconded. No discussion. Vote was taken and motion passed. Minutes placed on file.

Sam made a motion to move "New Business" up on the agenda. Jan seconded. No discussion. Vote was taken and motion passed.

Mark Stevens gave the Historian's Report. Sampson Battis descendants from Pittsburg, NH reached out looking for information, and wanted to see the graveyard. Mark will meet them in the spring. Dale Caswell is going ahead for Memorial Day 2022 and requested the Center Cemetery look good. It was noted that the DPW are working on leaves. Flags would be placed. John assured he would check on the flags in preparation.

Jan gave a Keeper's report. She sent out 33 spring letters and by April 5, there was 4 replies. Dale Caswell, Sumner Dole, the Schneiders, and Rick Zeller. Sam and John and Annette verbally confirmed their interest to continue. Kent Hatfield would work on the Clough Cemetery, and Sandy Hodsdon said she was interested in helping too. Adam Hastings at the Glines cemetery received an email but no reply was had; perhaps the Trustees will do a work party day and clean up the cemetery.

John had nothing to add for Veterans Affairs. The question arose if there was a map of SMC and the answer was no. John is working on developing one.

Joanne Copp contacted the Trustees regarding the Wilder plot at Maple Grove. She said the matter had been resolved but asked if the plot could be enhanced. A lilac bush was suggested. The Trustees will revisit the subject in May and make a decision.

Sam made a motion to start the process to reclaim abandoned cemetery lots pursuant to RSA 289:18 on several lots at the Maple Grove Cemetery, including the Plastridge Lot in Section B and the Whinston Lot in Section C. Jan seconded. No discussion. Vote was taken and motion passed. Sam also noted that letter was sent out to families of 2021 burials. No news has been received on the Modugno bench or the Blair monument.

Mark Stevens started the Expansion Project conversation with his report on meeting with GM2, whom he met with and has not yet received a proposal from. The other engineering firm, Bailey, gave an estimate that the Trustees had received, which Mark described as a good document and helps us decide what we might need or not need. The conversation shifted to the fact we need a conceptual plan for the voters in March, and then start the work in earnest. Mark pointed out that we need to post that the Trustees are seeking bids for proposals. We are waiting on GM2 to send a proposal; the Trustees need to seek bids from other companies; and need to start presenting to the Selectboard.

A work session was agreed upon for Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. at the Meeting House, to develop a plan for the Selectboard. The Trustees will hold a meeting and Public Hearing closure on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 9 a.m. at the Meeting House.

Kent noted that corner markers have been ordered for Mike and Jan Cote's lot, and a discussion of where to place should be had.

John made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jan. No Discussion. Vote was taken and motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel Papps, Secretary