

## Canterbury Cemetery Trustees

### Minutes from September 15, 2021 meeting

John Goegel opened the meeting at 1:15 p.m., at the Canterbury Bandstand, and roll was taken. Present were Jan Cote, Sam Papps, John Goegel, Kent Ruesswick, and Mark Stevens.

1) Motion was made by Jan Cote to accept the minutes from the August 18, 2021 Trustees Meeting. Seconded by John Goegel. No discussion, and a vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

2) *Sexton's Report*: Kent reported that he met with Geoff and Bobbie Souther at Maple Grove on August 13<sup>th</sup> and on August 28<sup>th</sup> with Bobbie, and they discussed the purchase of a lot behind her mother Avis Streeter in Section F Row 7. He noted that Clifford Pickard was a cremains burial on September 11, 2021, and at that time he and Sam and John met with Beth Blair to discuss her lot. Kent and Sam marked some of the back tree line for the new clearing job. He also discussed the clearing project with the budget committee, and there is \$11,000 interest in the perpetual care trust. He read off the scope of work for the clearing project, and was meeting people up at the site that week. Brian Magoon, Danny Ladd, Brett Barton. The Trustees will wait to hear from Kent about bids.

3) *Historian's Report*: Mark reported several things, namely inquiries about Alfred Martin and James Herrick at the Maple Grove and their status as veterans. A couple from Concord came and inquired about the grave of Sampson Battis. Fred Brewster contacted Mark on behalf of the Historical Society sign committee, and asked about the students at CES and their interest in the Sampson Battis marker in the Center. Mark will follow up with Fred and the teacher after the school year is in swing.

4) *Veterans Affairs*: John reported that a request had been made to the office of Annie Kuster regarding information on the military service of Douglas Russwick, a citizen of Canterbury who died in 2019. He also wished to propose a plaque recognizing George Shannon, a soldier in the Revolutionary War who left his family in 1775 with at least 20 other Canterbury citizens and joined Col. John Stark's 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of New Hampshire. Shannon fought British regulars on June 13, 1775 at Bunker Hill, and was killed in action. His remains were interred at Salem Street Burying Ground (Medford, MA), and was survived by a wife Mercy and possibly a son John (aged 8 years) who lived at the intersection of Borough and Ayers Roads. John wrote, "Though almost 70 Canterbury citizens fought in many of the major engagements of the American War of Independence, George Shannon is believed to be the only to be killed in combat."

5) *Keeper's Report*: Jan prepared a report, noting that until the inspections are done, she wasn't able to have a clear picture of where and how exactly many of our cemeteries were cared for this year. She noted that the Emily Randall stone was righted in the Center Cemetery by Sexton Kent Ruesswick, and she attended a Historic District Commission meeting on August 18 to note to the committee work remaining undone on the Town Pound Lane, as the result of the dismantling of the Guertin Barn on Center Road. The HDC will keep the Trustees informed of how they will face this issue. She also reached out to Mark and Brenda Travis to ask how they were getting on caring for the Ham I Cemetery on Shaker Road, but as of 9/8/21, the cemetery remains neglected by its

***Final Minutes*** accepted November 3, 2021 and placed on file SP

keepers. The Moore Cemetery had several stones righted and repaired by Charlie Beede this summer, paid for by the Schneiders, and they keep good care of their cemetery. The Shaker Cemetery is immaculate, and John Goegel, Mary Kruzel and Jeff Leidinger have worked to maintain the Shell Meetinghouse Cemetery. Katie McKay, it was noted, keeps good care of the Lyford Cemetery on Shaker Road. John remarked after the inspections, a survey this fall could garner responses from Keepers about their care of the cemeteries, and keep in touch with them too.

6) *Establishment of a 501c3*: Kent had spoken with Frank Tupper and Frank was certain there was a way to have the town accept gifts of money to be expended by the Trustees. He will work on that for us. Lucyann Zeller reported that Rick was working on the Ayers Cemetery, and possibly the Forrest Cemetery too. It was decided we should not pursue a 501c3 for the cemeteries.

7) *Annual Cemetery Inspection*: Three days were selected for the inspection of Canterbury's cemeteries: Wednesday September 29, October 6 and October 13<sup>th</sup>.

8) *Database Update*: Sam admitted he needed to get back on this project and would have more to report in October.

9) *By Laws*: Sam previously emailed notes from the August 25, 2021 By Laws public hearing, and the updated bylaws themselves, and Mark noted that the word "adopt" needs to replace "accept". The bylaws were adopted at the hearing, and Sam will print copies for Kent to distribute with deeds of interment, post a copy at the Sam Lake House, and get them on the website. John will write to the Newsletter about the November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to get items from the Maple Grove before annual clean up. Sam will also put "draft" in header of minutes rather than on the minutes themselves.

10) *Opening Shell Meetinghouse Cemetery*: Over the years, residents have expressed interest in being interred at the Shell Meetinghouse Cemetery, located at the intersection of Hackleboro and Baptist Hill Roads. Most recently have been neighbors Jeff and Claudia Leidinger. The Trustees discussed if the cemetery has officially been "closed", being that it is a Town cemetery, and that only cremains should be allowed to be interred in the cemetery. It is thought that perhaps there is a great deal of ledge in the cemetery, and that accounts for the sometimes sporadic burial patterns at the cemetery. Rules should be developed for the cemetery, and this also brought up the valley in the Center Cemetery, where Kent has discussed burials along the stream and the bank for many years. It was decided the topic will be studied and rules made up for burials of cremains in such spaces as Shell and Center for residents to purchase space.

11) *Righting of Emily Randall Stone at Center Cemetery*, and 12) *Repair of Headstones at Moore Cemetery* were previously covered by Jan in item 5. Kent said he would look at righting and repair projects, and consider taking on the repair of Canterbury's broken markers. Richard Maloone was also discussed as a resource for repairing stones.

13) *New Business*:

a. Jeff Leidinger offered to build a gate for the Shell Meetinghouse Cemetery. Kent suggested using white oak or locust. Red Oak was also queried. The Trustees decided to let Jeff made a design, and bring it back for our approval. The status of the posts, how the gate would sit,

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the hardware used, were also discussed. John Goegel will contact Jeff and discuss the project, and ask for more details.

b. Hugh Fifield's map and records. Mark volunteered to go speak with Hugh's family about the map and other records Mr. Fifield may have had at the time of his death.

c. The Blair-Sembrich Lot. John, Sam and Kent met with Beth Blair at Maple Grove on September 11. The ensuing conversation ended with Beth requesting that the Trustees make an exception to the bylaws, and allow her a second headstone for the lot. The Blair Lot is in Section F, and consists of four graves measuring 4' wide by 9' long each (resulting in an overall size of 16' wide by 9' long). Currently, her parents, Alfred and Virginia Sembrich, are interred as cremains, with one upright monument on the lot, and Mrs. Blair would like to bury her husband Christopher in the lot as well, and add an additional upright headstone for her husband and herself. The Trustees discussed the matter at length, noting the circumstances surrounding the placement of Mrs. Blair's mother outside of the lot sold to them originally, and the subsequent switch of lots that has already occurred. John made a motion that the Trustees allow a second above-ground headstone on the Sembrich-Blair lot with considerations. Jan seconded the motion. Discussion of considerations, led by John, were: that the monument be the same size as the existing Sembrich headstone, that it touches the existing Sembrich headstone, and that there shall be no further upright headstones erected on the lot. A roll call vote was held: John Goegel, yes; Jan Cote, yes; Sam Papps, no. With vote 2-1, the motion passes.

John made a motion to close the meeting at 2:45 p.m., seconded by Sam Papps. Motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting: Wed October 20, 1 p.m., Trustees Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel Papps, Secretary  
Canterbury Cemetery Trustees