

March 14th, 2024 Minutes of the Canterbury Cemetery Trustees Meeting

Held at the Meeting House, Canterbury Center

Present were John Goegel, Jan Cote, and Sam Papps, Mark Stevens and Kent Ruesswick.

John Goegel, Chairman, opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

- 1) John Goegel made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 2024 meeting, seconded by Jan Cote. John Goegel made one amendment to the minutes. Vote unanimous and the minutes were placed on file as amended.
- 2) Sexton's Report by Kent Ruesswick noted that he had marked out the Dow and Dube lots that the Trustees sold last month at Maple Grove Cemetery. There is a possibility that the Udaloys might want to buy a lot at the Maple Grove. Kent reported he had met with Jeff Leidinger and Dave Court regarding the hardware at the SMC gate, and the proposed chain over the new entrance off Shell Meeting House Road. The Messingers lot has not been selected yet.
- 3) The Historians Report was given by Mark Stevens, noting that a draft movie of the 2023 Cemetery Walk had been previewed, and the group was looking for suggestions of people to highlight in the 2024 walk. The Morrill Family was suggested, as was Abiel Foster. Mark also noted that he had talked with Harry Kinter and Jeff Leidinger, who asked permission to republish the Town Report articles for the Historical Society. The Trustees also discussed where the Cemetery Article could go, if the Town Report is no longer able to print them.
- 4) John Goegel had no Veterans Affairs report. The Trustees asked if the American Legion would continue this year to put out the flags, and Chairman Goegel replied "they always do it" so it can be assumed that they will again.
- 5) Jan Cote noted she had been in touch with Greg and Ruth Heath, and they will look at the Lyford Cemetery and see if they want to be its keeper. It was proposed that the Ham Cemetery on Wyven Road would be maintained by the Trustees.
- 6) The Trustees discussed the Town meeting and who would speak. John Goegel shared the draft explanation that he was proposing reading. John and Jan will stand with the map of graves to answer questions. Mark Stevens will provide poster board.
- 7) Under New Business, Jan Cote brought up that David and Anne Emerson of Shaker Road inquired if they could be buried as cremation burials in the Ham Cemetery near their house. The Trustees discussed it, and Sam brought up the 1884 deed book 263 page 335 where John and Sarah Ham reserved the burial ground from the sale of their farm. It was decided that the Trustees could not grant this request as they do not own the cemetery, but neither do the Emerson's. Mark Stevens asked about the "orphan cemetery" process, and it could be started to gain legal claim over the cemeteries that are private but abandoned by families. The topic of Center Cemetery and resuming burials there was broached by the Trustees but the consensus was the expansion project at Maple Grove needs to be finished first.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 4th at 9 a.m. at the Meeting House.

Motion to adjourn was made by John Goegel, seconded by Sam Papps. Motion passed; meeting adjourned 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Papps, Secretary
Canterbury Cemetery Trustees