

Cemetery Trustees Meeting
Tuesday April 6, 2021 5:30 PM

Highland Cemetery
Minutes

Present: Jay Cary, Laurie Wadsworth, Trustees; Blake Allison & Matt Stevens, Conservation Commission; Sean Norton of Sean's Lawn & Garden, Orford; Jean Smith, former Cemetery Trustee

1. March Minutes - APPROVED
2. All present walked through the cemetery, pointing out areas in need of Sean's attention if he is willing:
 - "Screening" between the cemetery and the Transfer Station. Blake and Matt had brought a list of NH native plants, which we unanimously agreed would be most preferred. Laurie also encouraged possible use of butterfly/pollinator friendly plants and several possibilities were discussed.
 - Several examples of older foliage which is overgrown and either unsightly or a threat to nearby gravestones. One of the worst examples is the grave of Clayton Claflin, which has been obscured by bushes around it.
 - Jean Smith gave Sean an overview and history of the Memorial Garden, along with the original plan, which was made when she was a Cemetery Commissioner. Several of these plantings need either pruning or feeding.
 - Jean also walked us along the western border, above Route 10, including a nice grouping of lilacs.
 - We considered possibilities for the eastern border in front of the shed where deer have chewed on former plantings. One possibility is the planting of a small deciduous tree along the driveway into the shed as a distraction instead of trying to revive the border plantings.
 - Sean pointed out that this year in particular, nursery supplies are low. We agreed that if he is hired for long-term, he can come up with a multi-year plan which would enable him to reserve some plantings each winter when the prices are best.
 - Sean also noted that he does not do watering.
3. After the others left, Jay and Laurie agreed to recommend hiring Sean. Laurie will notify Dina to find out the next steps.
4. Due to the impending darkness, we ran out of time to go over the revised Cemetery Rules and Regulations; additionally we both want Michael Hinsley's input when he is available, after the COVID epidemic recedes and frees him up.
5. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Wadsworth