

# Lyme Cemetery Trustees

MINUTES: March 30, 2021 5:15 PM (via Zoom)

Present: Laurie Wadsworth, chair; Jay Cary, Michael Hinsley

*(With the governor's shut down orders, we were unable to meet in person.)*

1. Unanimously approved Minutes from the June 3, 2020 and Dec. 29 meetings.
2. Sexton's job: Laurie had written and sent to Trustees a draft of an updated job description for the Sexton, which includes record-keeping on a computer program and transferring sales of lots to the Town Clerk. All licensing and other sales in the Town are conducted through the Town Clerk, so this brings the Cemetery lot purchases into the same practice. Since Bill has decided not to retire yet, posting the job was put on hold; however, Laurie will confer with Patty Jenks about the best method for sale and assignment of cemetery lots, and then post this information on both the Town website and the Listserv, **to be in effect immediately.**
3. Missing flag holders for veterans: By Jay's reckoning, there are 31 veterans' graves in the Old Cemetery that do not have markers. Laurie proposed asking the Lyme Foundation for the purchase of 50 new flag holders. This idea was voted down since we have enough money in the Perpetual Care fund for this purchase (around \$1500). Jay had found both aluminum and brass ones on-line. We voted for him to order one of each, and then enlist input from veterans from 3 different conflicts (Ken Uline, Brian Rich, Shawn O'Keefe) to help choose the style. The goal will be to get them in place by Memorial Day.

[Incidentally, Laurie related how one of the 3rd graders who was studying the Old Cemetery this fall was upset that there was no flag by Ebenezer Green's stone, since he fought in the American Revolution and even spent 3 years in a POW camp in Canada. After this meeting, Jay found one more flag holder, and has placed it respectfully next to Col. Green's grave. KUDOS to Jay!]

## 4. Highland: Landscaping; clean-up; lights for flagpole

- Landscaping: Voted for Laurie to pursue names of 2 professionals & she will follow up for a survey/ proposal in April. Will request both immediate clean up of overgrown bushes, pruning, etc. and a proposal for a long-term plan, which might include

bird/butterfly-friendly plantings. Michael recommended asking for input from the Conservation Committee as well. Laurie will invite them to come.

- Clean-up: Laurie had chatted informally with Matt Thibodeau about the Town providing a truck/bin(s) for people to discard old Christmas decor, plastic flowers, etc. for several days in early May, in anticipation of Memorial Day. She will follow up.

- Lighting for flagpole: We received a request from the Uline family to provide lighting for the flagpole. They cited their own use of inexpensive solar-powered lights. Michael and Jay will proceed with purchase and mounting of downcast, solar lights.

#### 5. Old Business:

- Jonathan Appel: He has become quite the "rock star" of cemetery restoration, with seminars in all 50 states in the past year! We have been very fortunate to have employed him here in Lyme for several years. Last summer he did work on our recommended stones in the Old Cemetery, and at Beal. Jay will shoot him an e-mail in hopes that we can get him back this year to continue in both of these cemeteries.

- Memorial for Cate and Prince: Laurie attended a Zoom presentation about memorials to former enslaved people in New England. She shared one take-away: "Don't re-victimize them." Jay and Laurie also each contributed to a NHPR episode of the "Exchange," about the same subject, but were both disappointed by the response. Clearly, we need to address this subject with care, time and community input in 2021. One possibility raised was, once we decide on an appropriate memorial, to ask the Lyme Foundation for help with funding it.

- Green Burials: As the hour grew late, we decided to postpone further discussion of this big subject for later meetings. In the meantime, Laurie will look into hosting expert Lee Webster for an in-person informational presentation/Q & A here in Lyme when this sort of meeting is allowed under the Governor's Covid guidelines. Also, we will begin to consider how and where we could grant them in Highland Cemetery at our next meeting, which will be held there.

Meeting adjourned 6:55 pm.

***NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 20 5:30 pm***

***in Highland Cemetery***