

Cemetery Trustees Meeting
Thursday, Aug 4, 2022 5:00 PM

Town Offices and Highland Cemetery

Minutes

Present: Laurie Wadsworth; Jay Cary, Michael Hinsley, Trustees; Joe Supp, Sexton; Dina Cutting, administrator; Patty Jenks, Town Clerk

Agenda:

1. Discussion/possible decision about adopting Cemify
2. Approval of wording for 4 new signs
3. Placement of unvaulted graves in Highland

1. Cemify:

Trustees and town officials each gave our feedback about the program. Since Joe, Dina and Patty would be the main ones using the program (especially for sales & placement of new burial lots) their input is valuable. Dina confirmed that several other small NH towns use Cemify; she had to leave early, but gave her thumbs up before she left. Patty still has some concerns about technical support, especially since the owners are in California and may not be available when needed. She is definitely not worried about modifying her record-keeping to match Cemify's forms. A lengthy discussion ensued about how Joe and Michael would do the mapping. Joe has used this sort of tool before and is adept at transferring the drone photos & data to a map, and Michael is eager to help.

Concerns involve mostly the small size ("mom and pop"?) of the company and its more recent inception, as well as many questions about how well and just where the data is backed up. For instance, what would happen to our records if the company went under? Michael did a quick internet search to see what programs other NH use, such as "Cemetery Find" which was recommended by the NH Cemetery Association.

All agreed that we still do not have the adequate information to make a good decision yet. Laurie will work with Dina to get a more firm proposal (with costs) from Jason Habing of "Cemify." Michael and Joe will further discuss using the drones, and possible do a few trial runs. Michael and Jay will look further into what other small NH towns use.

2. Final draft for signs approved unanimously. Laurie will send to Dina, to get 4 signs made, 2 each for the entrances to both Highland and the Old Cemetery. These will replace the old signs from the former Cemetery Commission, as our rules and regulations have been updated since they were erected.

The Trustees and Sexton Joe Supp moved to the Highland Cemetery.

3. Unvaulted graves in Highland:

Sexton Joe Supp joined the Trustees in Highland Cemetery to look at the actual sites for new unvaulted burials. They will be placed along the southern boundary, roughly between the cremation lots and the fence. In keeping with tradition, all graves will be placed in an east-west orientation.

Shed: Joe and Matt Thibodeau are working on cleaning out old machinery, etc. and will use the funds allocated to build some sort of entry-foyer-office inside where the Sexton can meet with citizens who want to choose a grave site in person. We discussed the need for internet service so Joe can use a digital device to show them the map, and record purchases. Joe also requests that the outside be painted; Laurie requests dark green, so the building will fit into its surroundings.

Unfinished stone: Trustees voted unanimously to approve adding the DOD to the stone of Amalia Greenwood. An anonymous request was forwarded to us through the Town Clerk. This will be a one-time special approval. Funding will be through Perpetual Care. Laurie will call the monument company.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.