Town of Grantham
Cemetery Trustees Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2016

Cemetery Trustee Chair Warren Kimball called the meeting to order at 5:45p.m. at his home in Grantham, NH.

Present: Chair Warren Kimball; Christopher Paquette; Russell Bailey; Cemetery Sexton Warren Legacy; the Towns Grounds Keeper Glenn Carey and Secretary Martha Norris.

New Business:
Warren Kimball stated there were two (2) new members to the Cemetery Trustees and introduced Chris Paquette and Russell (Pete) Bailey that replaced outgoing members Thomas (Ed) Buckman and Andy Anderson.

Review Fees and Regulations:
Kimball stated that it has been brought to his attention through Cemetery Sexton Warren Legacy that costs have increased for burials.

- **Cremations**: Legacy stated cremations are currently priced appropriately at weekdays Monday – Friday $125.00 and weekends, Saturday, Sunday and holidays $175.00.
- **Burials:** Legacy said with the costs for burials the prices would need to be increased to $450.00 for full burial weekdays Monday – Friday and $550.00 for full burial weekends and holidays.

Paquette asked Legacy how many burials the town gets a year. Legacy said last year there were only two (2) and 22 one year. Legacy continued during the winter months burials have to wait until the following spring to take place.

Legacy stated the "plot" prices needed increasing as well and currently one full plot at Memorial Cemetery is:

- **Monuments:** Monuments only /Center Section (F) are $250.00 and should be changed to $300.00.
- **Markers:** All other plots with flat markers only currently priced at $200.00 should be changed to $250.00.

Legacy commented he had researched prices in comparison to other area towns with the overall cost and preparation of burials.

Sextons Pay:
Legacy continued regarding Sexton's Pay for selling plots he currently receives $25.00 and felt an increase of only $5.00 was sufficient per plot. The members decided that $30.00 was a fair

increase. For a purchase by the same person for "additional plots" on one deed would be $10.00 extra paid to the Cemetery Sexton otherwise it would be $30.00 per plot per deed.

Bailey asked Legacy if there were more than one deed per plot at one time. Legacy explained that one person could buy more than one plot at the same time of purchase, but they would only have one deed with the entire plot numbers listed on it for that family and or relatives and he in turn would mail "all of them" copies of that deed. Legacy said if someone wanted to purchase a plot at one time and then later the same person wanted to buy a second plot for someone else, then that would be considered two deeds. Paquette asked Legacy about cremations and Legacy explained one plot will hold six cremations. Bailey asked Legacy further information and Legacy explained his duties as Cemetery Sexton to him and Paquette.
The price increases were Unanimously Approved.

Paquette asked that in the spring sometime he would like Legacy to let them know when he is doing a burial so he could observe the process since there is so much involved, and he then would have the knowledge if someone asked without having to refer them to Legacy. Legacy agreed that would be a good idea for new members to observe.

Update Maps:
Kimball stated that Memorial Cemetery is the only cemetery left with plots available for purchase; all other cemeteries are full and/or private. Kimball said it was important to keep the maps updated and to keep track of plots that have been purchased and ones that are still available for purchase. Kimball explained the mapping layout to the new members.

Paquette asked Legacy if people can still be buried in the private lots. Kimball said the private lots are owned by local families. Legacy said that any cemetery whether it is private or not requires the cemetery sexton to do the burials unless requested by a family member themselves to do the burial. He is still required by law to mark out the plot and where the marker will go, however he (Legacy) would not be paid for doing the actual burial himself.

Review Plastic Flowers:
Kimball stated that a letter complaining about the plastic flowers in the cemeteries had been received awhile back. Kimball explained for the new members the procedures that take place during the year at different times as noted in the Cemetery Regulations. Legacy said there are a few local women that remove them when they are looking bad. Carey said in the spring he removes the ones that have been there awhile and are falling apart and ones that have been blown around the cemetery. Members didn't see any problems with having plastic flowers on the graves.

Columbarium Discussion:
Kimball explained there had been some concerns with running out of plots a few years back and currently there are 1400 plots in Memorial Cemetery with around 200 of them sold. He said there really isn't a need to worry about shortage of burial plots at this time, but having a columbarium in the future would be something to think about. After looking into this the cost

is rather expensive just to get the base set up for it, Kimball said that columbarium's are more popular in larger cities. Legacy asked how much land the town owns where the Memorial Cemetery is located and Kimball stated right up to where the interstate right -of-way begins so there is still plenty of land that could be cleared if needed for more plots. Carey agreed. Kimball continued that at least if someone were to ask they could say they have looked into this.

Legacy said he has been asked about a well being put in so people could have access to water for the flowers and/or plants at the burial sites, but there were risks involved with children possibly falling into the well since the school is across from the cemetery. Carey said that other towns have water tanks with a spigot.

Plan to clear remote cemeteries:
Kimball said that there are some remote cemeteries that are a considerable hike from any access roads and usually he will be in touch with some of the Conservation Commission members to help out with clean up of these sites. Paquette asked if it were the responsibility of the families to take care of these and Legacy said no, it was still part of the Cemetery Sextons duties. Legacy said however private cemetery owners are responsible for their own cleaning up. Kimball said that he would be in touch with the time and date for when the cleaning up will take place.

Adjournment:
Kimball asked if there were any further question, there being none the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha Norris
Cemetery Secretary