



FINAL
GRANTHAM CEMETERY TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
September 15, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Trustee Chair C. Peter James called the meeting of the Town of Grantham Cemetery Trustees to order at 6:35 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2020.

He read the following statement “As Chair of the Cemetery Trustees, due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu’s Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Board is authorized to meet electronically, and these reasons shall be reflected in the minutes.

Please note that there is a physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor’s Emergency Order. This is to confirm that we are providing public access to the meeting by telephone and other electronic means. Notice of the meeting was given, as required by RSA 91-A, and included details for participating in the meeting. Members of the public will be invited to speak and recognized by the Chair. If, at any time during the meeting, there becomes a problem with access please call 603-863-6021 or email at info@granthamnh.net.”

Trustee Chair James continued by taking a Roll Call of those in attendance. He asked each member to state their presence and whether anyone else was in the room during the meeting, as is required under the Right-to-Know law.

PRESENT: Trustee Chair C. Peter James, Trustee Warren Kimball, Trustee Ralph Beasley, and Board Clerk Emily Owens.

- II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 18, 2020:** Trustee Beasley made a motion to approve the minutes from August 18, 2020, seconded by Trustee Kimball. *Unanimously Approved by roll call*

III. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Approval of Invoices:** There were three invoices submitted by Legacy Landscaping; two related to cemetery business and one pertaining to repairs at Memorial Cemetery. The first invoice was for \$50.00 for marking out Bob and Joanne Moulton’s and the second for \$175.00 for the cremation burial of George Rice. Next, the Trustees reviewed the invoice submitted for \$360.00 from Legacy Landscaping to repair the rock wall at Memorial Cemetery. Trustee Kimball made a motion to approve the invoices from Legacy Landscaping in the amount of \$585.00, seconded by Trustee Beasley. *Unanimously Approved by roll call.*

It was decided that the Trustees would seek reimbursement from the maintenance trust fund to cover the cost of the repairs to the rock wall. Trustee Beasley made a motion to seek reimbursement from TTF #586 Trust No 1998 Grantham Memorial Cemetery Maintenance Fund in the amount of \$360.00 for repairs to the Grantham Memorial Cemetery rock wall completed by Legacy Landscaping on September 2nd, 2020, seconded by Trustee Kimball. *Unanimously Approved by roll call.*

The Trustees will seek reimbursement from the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund for the mowing of Grantham Memorial, Hilldale, and Dunbar Hill cemeteries by the Town. Board Clerk Owens will provide the Trustees with a number at the next meeting in October.

- B. New Sexton:** Trustees have asked Town employees if they are interested in replacing Warren Legacy and so far, none are. The Trustees will list the opening in the Grantham e-news and on the Town website.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Fisher Cemetery: Simon B. Harris** – Trustee Chair James corresponded with NH DOJ Director of Charitable Trust Thomas Donovan and he provided an article regarding the gravestone surfacing in Newport, NH in 1989. Trustee Chair James contacted Mrs. Seaver, the person who originally discovered the gravestone in 1989, and learned that she could provide no additional information. How the gravestone found its way to Grantham is still a mystery. Based on the advice by Mr. Donovan, Trustee Chair James will have Town Counsel provide a legal opinion on storing the gravestone in the Police evidence lock-up. The Trustees will also write to the newspaper (Eagle Times and Valley News) to see if they are interested in covering the story. Trustee Beasley researched the names Simone B. Harris and Henrietta Woodbury. He was able to find that Henrietta remarried a Young but Trustee Beasley will continue to look for more information.
- B. Research Concerning Ground Probing Radar:** Trustee Chair James continued to evaluate having a company conduct ground probing radar (GPR) on the Fisher Cemetery. Trustee Beasley found an article in the Valley News featuring Bob Perry from Hudson, NH. Trustee Chair James contacted Mr. Perry and received a quote for \$1650 for testing plus a few hundred for travel. The Trustees decided it would be worth it to email the Town Administrator and Selectmen about asking for permission to spend roughly \$2500.
- C. Cemetery Condition Update:** Trustee Kimball has asked Sexton Warren Legacy to look at the broken stones and provide a quote to repair them. As previously discussed, Sexton Legacy repaired the wall at Memorial Cemetery.
- D. Discussion Concerning Sexton Appointment:** The Trustees decided to wait on establishing a set term for the Sexton position until after several applicants have

been found. The Sexton's job description will be reviewed by the Trustees and comments will be provided at the next meeting in October.

- E. Cemetery History:** Trustee Beasley has been officially appointed by the Selectmen as the Town of Grantham Archivist, now needs to be sworn in. He gained access to the Archives and started researching the history of the cemeteries. Board Clerk Owens will provide a copy of her material regarding perpetual care and deeds to cemeteries. The Trustees discussed that previously Grantham had more cemeteries and their concerns that a former Grantham cemetery, now part of Plainfield, exists in Corbin Park. Trustee Chair James will write a letter to Corbin Park inquiring about the cemetery and its status.

The Trustees discussed the private/public status of all the cemeteries in Grantham. The following cemeteries are public based on deeds/clear records, Grantham Memorial Cemetery, Hilldale Memorial Cemetery, Fisher Cemetery, and Dunbar Hill Cemetery. The following cemeteries are questionable based on a lack of deeds/clear records, Hastings, Brown, and Grantham Mountain Cemetery. The Trustees believe Littlefield Cemetery and Leavitt are private. The Trustees decided to research the process of the Town legally assuming responsibility for Hastings, Brown, and Grantham Mountain cemeteries based on NH RSA Title XXVI Chapter 289 Section 20. Trustee Kimball will have a conversation with Mr. Buckman to see how he feels about the Town adopting the Brown Cemetery.

- F. Review Regulations:** This item is tabled until the pandemic issue is resolved.

- V. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Beasley to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Kimball, and approved unanimously by roll call at 7:27 p.m. The next Trustee meeting is scheduled for October 20th, at 6:30 p.m.