

**Hopkinton Cemetery Trustees**  
*Nullus Vivere Relinquit*  
**Meeting of November 23, 2021**

**Present:** Judy Hampe, Gayle Kimball, and Sexton Joe Tristaino, with guest Sienna Larson.

Gayle Kimball called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. at Hopkinton Town Hall.

The Minutes of the September 30 meeting were approved as circulated.

Sienna Larson joined us for approximately 35 minutes to present an update on her UNH Master Gardener volunteer project. Sienna and Joe have added informational plaques to the trees for the Old Hopkinton Cemetery Tree Trail and will be working on adding information about the trees to the plantsmap website.

Ms. Larson has also identified a listing of trees that would be appropriate for memorial plantings. Over the winter she will develop a paragraph or two for the Town of Hopkinton website. She will meet with Sexton Tristaino to identify sites in each of the three big cemeteries where memorial trees would be a welcome aesthetic addition without causing a nuisance or disrupting routine grass cutting and maintenance.

The trustees accepted and signed the proposal submitted by Pinnacle Landscaping Services for spring clean-up in the amount of \$8,850.

There was a brief update about outstanding inquiries for the purchase of right to buries in the Old Hopkinton Cemetery which led to a discussion of how many plots were available. After discussion, it was agreed that accurate map of sold and unsold lots/plots should be a priority for all the active cemeteries.

Sexton Tristaino reviewed the completion of his work year, including his efforts in clearing overgrowth in the Putnam Cemetery, the closing of the cemeteries, outstanding internments, and his thoughts for work projects for spring 2022. He has had some issues in all the cemeteries, and particularly in the Contoocook Village Cemetery, with the “squaring off” of plots in preparation for burials and sales. He believes that he can acquire the tools and skills to more accurately measure and layout plots than has been the case in the past. The maintenance shed in CVC is an issue as much repair work is required. There was discussion about the replacement of the shed, perhaps in 2023, and if replaced what repairs to the shed would be required in 2022. Also the Sexton proposes that \$2,500 be set aside for the repair of fallen monuments that are too large and/or fragile for his individual effort.

In 2021, there have been 18 internments in Contoocook Village, 11 in Old Hopkinton, 1 in New Hopkinton, 4 in Blackwater, 1 in Stumpfield, and 1 in the Contoocook Memorial Garden. Total plots sold to date total 10.

The issue of removal of trees, including trees blocking the new Tree Trail plaques, and also of invasive plants was raised and tabled. It was agreed that our 3-year strategic plan should be revisited before these were targeted as 2022 projects for the Sexton.

Town Administrator Neal Cass will be circulating a performance evaluation form for the Sexton in mid-December.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gayle Kimball  
Secretary