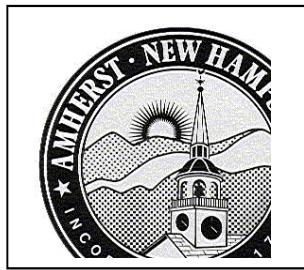


Town of Amherst, NH
Cemetery Trustee Meeting
22 Dodge Rd
August 19, 2021, 1:00 pm.

Call to Order at 1:20pm

Marie Grella, Chairperson; Cynthia Dokmo, member; Lisa Eastland, Member; Perry Day, Sexton; Pat Delisle, Mark Keenan, resident are attending.

Citizen Forum: Mark Keenan, resident from Ponemah Rd. discussed winter burials. Mr. Keenan stated that he finds it somewhat archaic, appalling, and does not put him at great ease that if he tried to bury his wife during the winter we would have been storing her in a crypt. He continued that we should move out of the 1800's and that winter burials are easily done in most states. He contacted the director at the State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, since he is a vet and entitled to be buried there. He asked how they handle winter burials and was given the contact information of the company that the State Veterans Cemetery uses and he received a quote from Quick Thaw. He stated that he has no ties, no monetary incentives to do this, other than he doesn't feel comfortable with anyone being stored in a crypt when it can easily be thawed out with the purchase of that equipment and people can be interred in the winter. He feels it's a good time to start moving winter burials forward. Marie replied that she appreciated Mr. Keenan's input and concerns and will try to answer some of his questions. Not very many cemeteries in the state of NH do winter burials to begin with. To do winter burials you would need: 1) to have the roads plowed: 2) you need to hire people to do the plowing: 3) the roads need to be paved. We are a country cemetery, and very few cemeteries in the state of NH have paved roads. Mr. Keenan asked if it is a state law. Marie states that it would be a courtesy to the snow plow drivers because they would tear up our property. In the past we have had winter burials before the snow came; however the ground was frozen and the burial companies that bring in the vaults have torn up the ground, costing us thousands of dollars in repairs. Sexton Perry Day advises us if the ground is ready or it's not, if there is so much snow on the ground it's impossible to bury. You would have to plow the road and shovel. Who would pay that, and you going to pay the extra? Mr. Keenan states that the Town would. The Trustees can give him their decision and he is going to pursue it. If he has to go to the selectman he'll be more than happy to do that. He'll create a warrant article and put it in front of the people. Marie states that that would be fine and if that happens and it gets to that point, the bottom line would be the financial end of it. The trustees are trying to build a new cemetery and they are trying to make things as easy and as nice as possible for the Town. Mr. Keenan understands that and it's a great job. He will also have a Grandson, he is also an eagle scout, scoutmaster and he's seen what been done over at the new one as the eagle scout project, which he will be looking to do along with his grandson soon. It may include the present cemetery that has only a US flag and a monument, big stone says WWII, there is a lot more since WWII. The Trustees have that on their plan to do at the new cemetery and right now the issue seems to be that Mr. Keenan is very adamant about winter burials. We will take all that into consideration and go through all the channels before they say yes or no. Mr. Keenan states that they will do their due diligence and he will do his. Cynthia appreciates Mr. Keenan coming in. She understands Mr. Keenan's concern. She has been a trustee for 4 or 5 years and was kind of surprised herself that we did not have winter burials. Cynthia understands the logistic and economic things. The problem is that there have only been 3 or 4 people in the tomb that have been buried in Amherst. If people want to pass a warrant for the expense of winter burials God bless them, let them do it. More and more people are being cremated. Mr. Keenan states that



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there is also a thawing agent for that, he has covered all his bases. He is just putting forward the facts, he's not buying the snow deal, it can be easily done, they do it in Boscawen all the time. He is looking at an archaic approach, don't take it personally. Cynthia states that it is more of a small town NH approach, we do a lot of things just because we have always have done them that way, it doesn't necessary it's the right way. Mr. Keenan will be taking this up with one of the selectman immediately. This town has a lot of high tech and money in it. Marie states that they appreciate all his efforts, they will take it into consideration and they will get back to him with their decision. Mr. Keenan leaves the meeting.

The Trustees discuss what would be required to provide winter burials. Eric Hahn asks Perry Day how many spikes he has worn out trying to locate a grave? Under perfect weather conditions it is sometime difficult to locate a grave and would be impossible to locate the edges of the grave in the winter. If the roads where paved the snow discharge from the plows could damage the headstones, some of the stones are fragile, and would not be able to be repaired to their original condition. The cost for plowing and any damages caused by the and will be paid for by the person requesting the winter burial. Lisa asks who would be liable if we had a winter burial, plowed the roads and someone fell and was hurt? Eric Hahn comments that the roads do not need to be plowed all the time, just when there is a burial. If the person requesting the burial is willing to pay for the extra cost of clearing the way to the grave, you could clear a path to the grave. Lisa states that we could say that we would do a winter burial, we will use the ground thawing equipment as long as there is not "X" amount of inches of snow. We have had many winter when there no appreciable snow on the ground and there was really no reason to not have a burial. Marie points out that the ground would still be frozen and we would still have to find the lot. Marie cannot justify spending that kind of money when we wouldn't use it for 1 or 2 years.

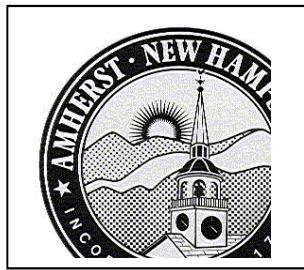
Cynthia makes a motion to decline to buy the equipment to provide winter burials at this time, seconded by Lisa, all in favor motion passes.

The rules and regulations contain the statement "Interments will not take place on Sunday or Holidays and will not take place from December 1 through April 15, unless the Sexton rules otherwise, based on weather and ground conditions."

Right to Inter: Lisa makes the motion to accept the Right to Inter for Lot #88J and 90J, Cynthia seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

New Business: Marie disperses he Rules and Regulations for the Town of Brookline for ideas on our Rules and Regulations.

Cynthia makes a motion to convert single grave lots into double grave lots as referenced in map 01, Lisa seconds, all in favor, motion passes.



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82 **Trees at Forestview**; Lisa has received 3 recommendations for trees at Forestview Cemetery. Lisa has
83 set up a meeting with Mike Gagnon of UNH Extension. He states that White Spruce would do the best
84 out of the trees that we have, but would like to get together and look at Forestview to advise the trustees
85 on what they can do in anticipation of the next 30 years of climate change. He has Tuesday (8/24) and
86 Friday (8/27) available to meeting with them at Forestview Cemetery.
87

88 **Allison Steel** : She would like to donate an upright stone for the Re-buried remains at the Town Hall
89 Cemetery identifying the remains. These remains will not be disinterred.
90 Cynthia makes a motion that the Trustees allow them to place a marker on remains that were unearthed
91 when Town Hall was reconstructed provided that the remains remain where they are now and are
92 undisturbed and that the placement of the upright stone is placed where the flat stone currently is
93 located. Seconded by Lisa, all in favor, motion passes.
94

95 **Batesville Software**: The updated software is cloud based, you can mark all your veterans and get a
96 current list, and you would be capable of locating a specific grave using Google maps. Our current
97 annual fee is \$1,250.00, Lisa will look into the cost of other cemetery software and if a bid would be
98 necessary if the Trustees purchase an upgrade through Batesville or went with another company.
99

100 **Natural Burials**: Katie Button may have a couple of town properties for the Cemetery Trustees that
101 may work for natural burials if they want to pursue it. They would provide small limited natural burials.
102

103 Cynthia makes a motion to accept the minutes of July 15 as amended, seconded by Lisa,
104 all in favor, motion passes.
105

106 Meeting adjourned at 2:30
107

108 Respectfully submitted,
109 Pat Delisle