

Sugar Hill Cemetery Trustees Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2024 at 6:00pm Crapo Building

Present: Leo Dickinson, Kathy Jablonski, Lynn Kenerson, Larry Sawyer.

Also present: Peter Carbonneau, Sexton.

Regular Business Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by Kathy Jablonski, Chair.

Approval of the Minutes

- Approve the minutes from October 10, 2024
MOTION: (Sawyer, Dickinson) to approve the minutes as presented.
VOTE: All in favor.

Sexton's Report

- Flags update: Individual Veteran flags were removed for the season on November 12. All were too worn to withstand another full season on display, but about half (70) were set aside in the shed. These will be offered to the public next summer for private use. The very faded/stained ones were brought to the VFW for disposal. Flags for next summer have already been purchased. The large flags on the flagpoles will be lowered for the winter before the end of the month.
- A descendant of Salomon Cole (d. 1836) contacted Peter about the condition of the grave marker. The slate headstone is extremely fragile and leaning. Peter inquired about replacement cost and was quoted \$2,000 by John Hanks. Cole was a Revolutionary War Veteran and there's a DAR marker on his grave, so both the VA and the DAR might be funding sources for repair/replacement.
- Old gravestone issues: A recurring theme, which generated a wide-ranging conversation. We do not have a budget for repairing stones, nor is it our obligation to do so. With the intention of historic preservation, we could ask the residents to vote on the March ballot whether they support adding funds to the cemetery trustees' line item to repair and/or replace pre-1900 gravestones as needed. Two options for preservation include laying the gravestone flat on/in a concrete pad or bracing the vertical marker with metal supports. Lynn will contact Wilco and the Bethlehem Cemetery Committee to discuss the latter. Lynn will also contact Gravestone Services of New England, LLC to get more information.
- Fencing: The picket fence replacement estimate is \$5,700 which includes 140' of vinyl fence, a gate and installation labor. If we choose to replace sections of the post and rail as needed it would be \$60/section. Peter has a few pieces of post and rail that he can use for repairs in an emergency.

2025 Budget Items (for further discussion)

- Paving lower Sunnyside entrance	\$9,500
- Paving upper Sunnyside entrance	\$11,500
- Grading gravel Sunnyside roads (old)	\$1,500
- Grading gravel Sunnyside roads (new)	\$1,300
- Picket fencing and gate at SD/LH	\$5,700
- Annual electricity cost for shed	\$400
- Monument cleaning	\$3,500
- Equipment rental	\$2,000
- LIDAR scanning of Streeter District	TBD

The trustees will meet in early December to finalize the budget. Acknowledging that the paving project exceeds our typical budget, we may ask for that project to be funded by a warrant article at Town Meeting. The Cemetery Committee has funds available in the Trust Fund account, so we could offset some of the warrant article expense with the available interest. Kathy will investigate what we have available in the Trust Fund.

Annual Report

Kathy will have a draft prepared prior to the December meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is **December 5, 2024** at 6:00pm at the Crapo Building.

Note that this is a week earlier than usual due to filing deadlines

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Kenerson, Secretary

These are the tabled items for future discussion:

- *Green burials*
- *Policy for replacing old/broken stones*
- *Landscaping at both cemeteries*
- *Rubbings/photographs of older stones to capture inscriptions*
- *LH mapping*