

Minutes of August 19, 2025 Cemetery Trustees Meeting

Held at the Meeting House, Canterbury, NH

Present were John Goegel, Jan Cote, Sam Papps, Kent Ruesswick and Mark Stevens.

John Goegel opened the meeting at 9 a.m.

1) Sam passed out amended minutes for the July meeting, and John made a motion to accept the amended minutes, seconded by Jan. The discussion was going over the proposed changes, most of which were grammatical. The Trustees voted and the minutes were accepted as amended.

2) Kent Ruesswick reported as Sexton that he has had 5 cremations and 2 full body interments this year to-date.

3) The Historian's Report was delivered by Mark Stevens, noting that he would contact the Town office to correct an invoicing error for a charge to the Cemetery account that was not part of the Cemetery budget for the year. He noted that Harold Sargent was, to his knowledge, the last veteran of World War II in Canterbury, which is a significant milestone. The Trustees discussed Mr. Sargent's service at Maple Grove Cemetery, which included a 12-gun salute. Mark also noted that the Cemetery Walk would have one performance in the cemetery this year, and two performances in the Town Hall.

4) John reported he had placed two flags at the graves of Donald Blanchard and Harold Sargent.

5) Jan noted that we were on the "2023" rotation of cemetery inspections this year, so there would be no repeating, and the Trustees discussed an abbreviated list of them. Kent noted he may have a new keeper for the Osgoodite Cemetery, if that would help. Jan will email dates for the Trustees to select in September for the tour.

6) The Trustees discussed the request regarding cleaning headstones, and Sam expressed concerns about the Center Cemetery stones, given their age and fragility. Kent had already spoken to them, and if they are interested they can contact the Trustees with specifics. The Trustees also discussed a standard form letter regarding requests for cleaning monuments.

7) John discussed a letter he sent to the Fife family regarding the placement of flags and ornaments at the Fife Family lot at Maple Grove Cemetery. John noted he had moved them after sending the letter on July 22nd, for maintenance purposes, and had no reply from the family.

8) The Trustees discussed several meetings that first John had with Karen and Peter Pearl, and then the meeting where Peter met with the Trustees at the Cemetery to discuss placement of a cemetery monument and flush markers at the Peterson lot at Maple Grove Cemetery, where he reiterated the request to the Trustees. The Trustees discussed their concerns for maintenance and aesthetics of placing a monument out of line with the other monuments in the cemetery, and the certain precedence that such an approval of a request would create. John made the following motion: **"That the Trustees require the proposed monument for the Peterson Lot be placed parallel and perpendicular with the lot lines, and be centered on the lot. The monument shall face west, towards the road, aligned with the abutting monuments already placed. Furthermore, the flush markers and all interments shall conform to the current east/west**

orientation of interments, in line with the lot lines, and shall face the road.” Sam seconded the motion; there was no discussion. The motion was passed unanimously; Sam will follow up with the Peterson heirs regarding the placement of the monument and interments, and will direct them to Kent if they have further questions.

9) John proposed a bylaws work session in February of 2026, to address concerns regarding the deed of interments and bring it in line with the bylaws, among other topics.

10) Kent spoke about the idea of the Trustees building a small structure at Maple Grove Cemetery, to have a discrete place for a porta-potty, and a secure closet for cemetery stakes and other tools. He discussed the rational, of families needing a restroom during services and not being physically able to get to a restroom nearby, and after some discussion, the Trustees agreed that getting more information and seeing about a cost would be a first step. Kent will contact Jake Mason to discuss the project. Kent also spoke about the parking issues in the upper section of Maple Grove Cemetery, and the Trustees agreed that the new entrance to the addition could be improved. Kent will pursue looking at some trees being removed, and obtaining a cost for Brian Magoon to grind several small stumps, and adding some gravel to the area. Sam made a motion to expand the area at as little a cost as possible, seconded by Jan. No discussion; motion passed.

The Trustees reviewed old business, and there was no news regarding headstone repairs this year. Sam will follow up regarding security cameras for Maple Grove Cemetery.

Sam read the notarized statement of agreement from the Blais family, stating their desire to sell back two lots to the Cemetery so a bench can be place to honor the memory of Wayne Blais. Sam made a motion that the Canterbury Cemetery Trustees vote to buy 2 (two) graves at Maple Grove Cemetery from Diana Holt (f.k.a. Diana Blais) identified in the records of the cemetery as Section F Row 6 Graves 10 and 11 for the original price paid in 1998, which was \$150 each. Motion seconded by John Goegel; no discussion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Sam made a motion that the Canterbury Cemetery Trustees vote to sell to Tyler Blais, son of Wayne and Diana Blais, 2 (two) graves at Maple Grove Cemetery identified in the records of the cemetery as Section F Row 6 Graves 10 and 11, for the current price of \$450 each, and further, to allow said Blais to erect 1 (one) upright monument on said lot following approval of the design by said Trustees. This sale is subject to a set of 4 (four) 6”x6” granite corner markers being purchased and placed to diliniate the lot within thirty dates of the lots purchase, and upon the understanding that the side of the monument shall not exceed 4’ (48”) in width. Motion seconded by John Goegel; no discussion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Jan made a motion to buy back the lot at Shell Meetinghouse Cemetery owned by Jim Valz and Eileen Peterson, seconded by John Goegel. No discussion; motion passed.

The Trustees decided the next meeting would be **Tuesday** September 23rd at 9 a.m. The meeting was closed by voice vote at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel Papps, Secretary
for the Canterbury Cemetery Trustees