Cemetery Trustees Minutes
Town of Canterbury, NH
August 13, 2026 –9:00 a.m. Meeting House

Members Present:
Cemetery Trustees: John Goegel (Chair), Jan Cote, Sam Papps
Sexton: Kent Ruesswick

Members Absent:
Cemetery Historian: Mark Stevens

Others Present:
Cheryl Andrew (Recording Secretary)

Call to Order:
John Goegel called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and noted a quorum was present.

Sale of Burial Lots:

- Linda and Robert Fife – additional burial lots at Maple Grove Cemetery

The Fifes have outlined their eight lots from the stone wall on the southeast corner, with four lots in the front and four in the back. They wish to purchase two more lots to end up with two rows of five lots each and approached John, who agreed the purchase would be possible. Linda and Robert Fife would retain seven lots (five in front and two in the northeast corner) and Kevin Fife would retain the remaining three lots. The Trustees were concerned about the purpose for the additional lots, whether they would be used as graves or simply an abundance of space. Additionally, the unit configuration is an "L" shape rather than the usual square. The Fifes were not present to answer these questions regarding the configuration and purpose for the additional lots. Jan noted there is nothing in the By-Laws that prohibits the purchase of graves for additional spacing.

The question arose as to where the headstones would lie. For grounds maintenance, the Trustees determined Linda and Robert Fife's headstone would be located between two on the back and Kevin Fife's would be centered on the middle grave, also in the back. Sam Papps made a motion to sell Robert and Linda Fife two more graves in addition to the eight they own, for a total of ten lots, contingent upon the headstone being on the back line of those graves, and then Robert and Linda Fife would transfer three lots to Kevin Fife, contingent upon his headstone being located on the back lot as well. Jan Cote seconded the motion, a vote was taken, all in favor, motion passed.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:
Sam noted the minutes of the July 21, 2026 meeting contained an error in the first paragraph regarding the dimensions of the lots on the Fife's deed. The minutes should read, "Linda Fife has the deed to the plot showing that they owned 8 lots that measured 4' x 10'." Mark Stevens had submitted a correction for the Shell Meetinghouse Cemetery, as well as extra spacing, which were considered typographical errors. No further edits to the minutes of the meeting were presented. John Goegel made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2026 meeting

minutes as amended, motion seconded by Jan Cote. A vote was taken, all in favor, motion passed.

Sexton's Report:
Kent reported the Dudley lots have been pinned, as well as the two lots Deb Tomasek had purchased. As the Trustees have adopted pin-setting, Kent noted the pins do not go in with impact. There are battery powered hammer drills that can do the job, costing approximately $400. Kent would like the Trustees' consideration to purchase such a drill. The budget was discussed to determine when this can be purchased.

Kent has reset the marker on the Maxfield lot, down at grade level. He also reported Winifred Maxfield, formerly of Boyce Road, will be interred at Maple Grove Cemetery when she dies.

Historian's Report:
Jan forwarded an email to the Board that was provided by Mark. He noted the following items: First one is that I gave a few more cemetery tours to people on the History Scavenger Hunt. It has now ended. To my knowledge about 2 dozen people visited Center Cemetery as part of this project.
Second, Diane Modugno and Deb Allen contacted me and said they are NOT going to do a cemetery tales History Walk this October. Canceled mostly because they are putting their energy into Tricentennial movie making. They plan to be back next year.

Veteran's Affairs Report:
John stated there was nothing to report.

Cemetery Keepers Coordinator's Report:
Jan had put a notice out for more Keepers. Caroline Brenner will maintain the East Kimball Cemetery on Pickard Road and Don Hudak will work the Smith Morrill Cemetery. Sam commented that if anyone else steps up to help, they should be sent to the Glines Cemetery. Jan reported there is a cemetery located on the property of Linda and Ray Weibel at 33 Pickard Road, but they have said they maintain the cemetery themselves. The Trustees should not be prevented from Keeping a cemetery and do need to verify this cemetery is maintained.

Old Business:
- Private Property Burial

Jan has been notified that Shirley Streeter has passed away and her cremains will be buried on the family's private property. Jan verified she does not need to send the information for interment on private property for burial of cremains . In this case, the father was previously buried on the property so a cemetery had already been established. The Cemetery Trustees have no jurisdiction over private property burials.

- Updated By-Laws and Regulations - Articles addressed by the Trustees

Sam noted the By-Laws and Regulations should be a general document to refer to all graves, and changes require public approval. The Right to Inter is the business contract allowing individuals burial in the specified lot, and can be changed by the Cemetery Trustees. The Right to Inter contract can be referred to in the By-Laws and Regulations. Some citizens have an older Deed

or Deed of Interment, which is a deed of property ownership. With the Right to Inter, a person may be buried but they do not own the property.
By-Laws and Regulations Article 5.: The process for transfer of graves needs to be made clear.
By-Laws and Regulations Article 6. Burials: All agreed items C and D are redundant and can be combined. Item H should be revised to allow 10 cremation urns in a 4' x 10' grave on top of a full interment, or 10 urns in a 4' x 10' grave without a full interment. Shell Meetinghouse Cemetery has only 4' x 8' lots as this cemetery is for cremains only. Item I will be revised to note corner markers will be used in older cemeteries and pins in newer areas. Sam has agreed to revise article 6.
By-Laws and Regulations Article 7. Vandalism: Sam noted the cameras are at Town Hall and he will see that they are installed by the end of the fall season.
Cemetery Rules and Regulations: John questioned whether the document should specifically note the Trustees are not responsible if flowers or headstones are damaged due to mowing in the cemetery. The Trustees felt that Article I addressed the care of the lot. Further, Article III addresses planting of flowers. Kent suggested flowers should be on the sides of the headstone so the mowers can go down the line through the center of all the graves.
The Trustees agreed to revisit these documents at a future meeting.

- Headstone Repairs

Don Cotnoir sent an email reporting he has one headstone left to repair by the end of the week. Sam noted the headstones should be repaired but not cleaned as they do not match the aged appearance of the surrounding stones. Don Cotnoir will prepare a restoration worksheet. The Trustees will re-evaluate and re-negotiate when he retires.

New Business:
Kent reported he found a shed available at no cost for Maple Grove Cemetery. The shed was donated by Scott Ruesswick's widow, Barb Cook.

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, John Goegel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, motion seconded by Jan Cote. A vote was taken, all in favor, motion passed.
The meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Next Meeting: September 15, 2026, 9:00 a.m. at the Meeting House
Minutes submitted by: Cheryl Andrew, Recording Secretary