

**Final approved December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 s.p.**

Minutes of the October 21, 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 9:01 a.m.

1.Cemetery deeds were signed by the Trustees for Winden and Haerr.

2.a: Sexton Report – Kent Ruesswick reported that John F. Fife, Sr. would be buried this weekend. Rose Fife called Kent to let him know that she and her husband, John Jr. got a request to remove the decorative items from the Leon Fife lot. They are willing to clean it off next week. There will be a follow-up letter from John Goegel, stating this conversation.

2b:Bathroom facilities –

Kent gave an update regarding the bathroom for Maple Grove Cemetery. Kevin Fife has a post and beam frame, ready to be erected. The price is \$1,000. This could resolve issue of the Robert & Linda Fife lot; to sell back for price paid and Kevin can eventually buy another lot resulting in getting a headstone for himself. John Goegel feels it sets a precedent for others to sell back lots and Jan agreed. Mark explained he feels it is a wash. The shed frame has 6 X 6 posts. Kent feels this puts a local touch on the building.

2c:Kent and Mark met with Brian Magoon and will spend the money for tree removal. Stumps and trees will be removed at Maple Grove and then John O'Donnell will be asked to get gravel at site up on hill that provides more turn around and parking space.

Minutes by Sam Papps through 9:30 a.m.

9:31a.m. Minutes were taken by Jan Cote

3.John Goegel made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, seconded by Jan Cote. In item 6, line 4 and 28 there were suggested changes that will be made.

Historian Mark Stevens gave an update on funds for Schleiger burials at Maple Grove. The Trustees of the Trust Funds approved the full amount. The money is to come from the Town Poor & Indigent Fund. Expenses were a plot at Maple Grove, headstone from Charlie Beede, the minister's fee and the Sexton's fee. Kent said he was paid by Merrimack County Nursing Home for his services. Mark finds the handling of funds confusing after speaking with Mary Hauptman at the town office, but believes the issue remains unresolved. John or Jan will try to get more information.

4b: Mark also asked if anyone knew of any other Colburns in Canterbury as Mary Colburn's son has asked. No one knew of any.

4c: Mark also reported that it is nearly time for the tallies of the burials for this year.

4d: Jeremiah Clough may be the individual he highlights this year in the Town Report.

Veteran's Report – John Goegel had nothing to report.

Cemetery Keepers Report – Jan Cote explained that there was not another inspection by the Trustees due to conflicting schedules. Jan inspected Clough Cemetery, which was in excellent shape thanks to the Keeper. She also inspected Kimball I and II. Both were in good shape. Next year we are going to ask more of the keeper as far as their attempt for working and reporting back on findings at their assigned cemetery and if they need more help.

Old Business:

John reported that Don Cotnoir from NH Monuments identified 14 repairs this year. (Plus the Herrick stone was done in MG Cemetery.) The total cost for the 15 stones was determined to be \$7025. We will use our budget (\$4400.) to repair a total of eight, which includes the Herrick headstone. The remaining seven headstones will hopefully be done in 2026.

The security camera installation item was tabled as Sam was not present at this time.

Regarding the granite post at the entrance to Maple Grove Cemetery, John will ask Don Cotnoir if he can repair it, rather than replacing it with a new one. Kent and John thought it could probably be pinned.

New Business:

Fall clean up at Maple Grove will happen after November 1<sup>st</sup>. There have been reminders in the town weekly email to remove items interfering with the leaf blowing. A notice will also appear in the November Newsletter. (The October reminder was not published). Jan will be available to help, and John will help during the week.

The 2026 budget was discussed briefly with Sam so John will follow up with him

There will be a winter work session probably in February. Work needs to be done on the cemetery deeds wording, or we'll need to change the rules in the by-laws.

The Abberton property that is for sale, which was to be investigated by Kent and Mark for our possible future use, will be revisited at a later date.

The Trustees agreed upon November 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the Meeting House for the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m. moved by John Goegel and seconded by Jan Cote

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Cote