

Trustee Meeting

Date: 10/31/23 meeting held on 11/7/23

Attendees: Kevin Lawrence (chair), Donna Stone (bookkeeper), Kenneth Cornell

Guest: Noah Chidester

Meeting called to order: 7:00

Noah submitted an invoice for two cremation burials- Johannes Holub; DOD 12/19/22 (old section NCC lot 1) Laid to rest on 10/21/23

Phyllis Peck: DOD (NCC G24) Laid to rest on 10/29/23

Two bases have been placed. One base is for the Peck family and was installed by Peterborough Marble & Granite Works. The second base is for the Meehan family installed by Manchester Memorial Co.

We discovered an issue with the [Snell purchase from 6/27/23](#). The Snell purchase was originally for plots 12-15. We inadvertently sold plot 12 to the [Collin family on 7/20/23](#). Once the error was discovered, we contacted the Snell family and reissued The Rights to Internment for plots H 8-11.

Audry Kern sold back the Right to Internment for NCC plot G-12 to the town.

We have 10 gallons of D2 gravestone cleaner remaining. It will be used in the spring for our next round of stone cleaning.

Review of the [Meeting Minutes 9/26/23](#) Kevin motioned to accept the minutes as written. Kenneth seconded the motion. All in favor.

The cemetery trustees reviewed the proposed [2024 budget](#)

Cemetery Budget Request for 2024

		2024	
		Request	
01-4195-01-840	Advertising	\$ 50.00	* Noah will send his actual proposal to the selectman
01-4195-01-910	Cemetery Expense	\$ 200.00	
01-4195.02-650	Groundskeeping	\$ 18,543.00	
01-4195-05-430	Maint. & Repairs	\$ 9,275.00	
01-4195-05-010	Flags	\$ 475.00	
		<u>\$ 28,543.00</u>	

Annual Report - [Draft](#) - Trustees will review the draft of the annual report and submit a final copy to the selectmen in December.

We received a correspondence from Bill Mulcahy-

Thanks for passing the tombstone restoration article on to the rest of the Cemetery Trustees. I was really pleased to see the photos that Kevin Lawrence has been posting showing at least an initial effort to clean some of the old stones with D2 (or some similar product).

Has there been any thought of establishing a supporting group of volunteers to help with maintenance and the simpler restoration work at the three historic Washington cemeteries? Many of my ancestors are buried in The Ancient Cemetery in Yarmouth on Cape Cod, and I have been meaning to mention to you the wonderful work that a volunteer organization, Friends of Ancient Cemetery, has been doing for the last several years to restore and maintain that cemetery. One of their innovative programs was to create a group of dedicated volunteers to help clean the old stones. Each volunteer is given the responsibility for cleaning and maintaining ten stones. The volunteers are trained on the correct way to clean a gravestone, and then they are kept supplied with the necessary materials needed to keep their 10 stones cleaned - D2 and safe/plastic scrapers and brushes. D2 is good but typically takes a number of uses on the older stones to undo decades of exposure to the elements - so it can take a period of time to get the initial 10 stones correctly cleaned/restored. Complete cleaning can last 5 to 10 years - so volunteers can take on additional stones once they get their initial 10 under control. Over the last several years I believe they have cleaned well over 1100 stones so far.

They have also established a group of volunteer genealogists who, like the stone cleaners, are assigned the names of ten people buried in the cemetery to research and document.

Another project is having volunteers participate in planting spring bulbs throughout the cemetery.

The work is documented, and photographed, and even videos are produced. The results are shared in several ways - posted to a website, shared on FaceBook - and shared through the involvement of partner organizations like the historical society and library - where exhibits are often displayed and presentations are given.

If you are interested and seeing more -

Here is the FOA website: <https://www.friendsofancientcemetery.org/>

Here is their FaceBook page where you can see the results of a lot of the stones that the volunteers have cleaned, and how they present a little bio on some of the stones, sometimes on the person's birthday, with a picture of the person if they have one, and a photo of the restored stone. If you scroll down to early October posts, you'll see one of my 2x great-grandfathers, Sylvanus Lincoln Robbins. I wrote the bio a long time ago and donated the high-resolution scan of one of the photos I have.

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofancientcemetery>

I do understand that Washington doesn't have the population of Yarmouth, and not the same financial resources - but the amount of work even a small dedicated group of volunteers can accomplish over time is usually nothing short of amazing.

And there are certainly obstacles to be overcome - like (I believe) there is no accessible source for water in the cemeteries, which is critical for supporting the stone cleaning volunteers - but I'm sure that solutions can be found.

At any rate, I wanted to share all of this with you and what you thought - are these things that might be supported by the Trustees for the Washington Cemeteries?

We only live in Washington for 4 months a year - but I would volunteer in such an effort.

Take care,

-Bill

The trustees decided to reach out to the restoration organization after our spring walkthrough.

2023 Deaths/Burials

Clinton R. "Bob" Fraser December 25, 1937- December 31, 2022 Burial (C) 5/6/23

Robert P. "Bob" Fraser February 8, 1964 — January 3, 2023 Burial (C) 5/6/23

Shane Mulliner August 16, 1971-March 2, 2023 Burial 5/14/2023

Kyle Endreson's cremated remains were laid to rest on July 15, 2023

Ronald Richard Dube's cremated remains were laid to rest on July 22, 2023.

Johannes Holub; DOD 12/19/22 Cremated remains were laid to rest on 10/21/23

Phyllis K. Peck's Cremated remains were Laid to rest on 10/29/23.

Next Meeting

March 2024- Open Meeting

**Cemeteries close November 15, 2023.

Next Meeting, 7:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted By,

Donna Stone

Washington Cemetery Trustee- Bookkeeper

It is our hope that the Washington Cemeteries will continue to provide a sanctuary of peace, comfort, and remembrance for those whose loved ones are buried within, while at the same time, preserving and maintaining an atmosphere of dignity at all times.

Trustees: Kevin Lawrence (2024), Donna Stone (2025), Kenneth Cornell (2026)