

NEWTON CEMETERY TRUSTEES

2 Town Hall Road - Newton, NH 03858

Minutes of Trustee's Dec. 10, 2020 Meeting

Members present: Mike Hughes, Bill Landry, & Ron Saunders at Newton Town Hall

Meeting called to order at 4: 30 PM. Minutes were taken by William Landry.

1. **REVIEW OF 2020 SPENDING:**

Total expenditures for the year of 2020 were \$14,158.42. \$8.42 over budget. The reason for this slight overage was due to an unanticipated increase in the cost of the annual update of the two (2) cemetery layout maps.

The Trustees have encumbered \$657.72 of unexpended funds for use in the replacement of the Veteran's Memorial at Willow Grove. (See Item # 10)

2. **REVIEW OF 2021 BUDGET:**

The 2021 budget line item amounts and the total budget remain at \$14,150.00, the same as the 2019, & 2020 budgets.

3. **REVIEW OF THE TRUST FUND BALANCES:**

As of Dec. 1 the Trustee numbers matched the values recorded by the Trustees of the Trust Funds. The Common Trust Fund, from which only the interest generated can be used, is \$93,029.95. The Expendable Trust fund balance is \$14,572.82. This includes a deposit of \$4,374.67 in interest from the Common Trust Fund. \$325.00 was taken from the Expendable Trust Fund account to re-purchase a grave from a family that purchased two (2) graves in 2015. The reason for the re-purchase was that, after doing a re-measurement of the section in which these graves were located, it was determined that there was not enough room left for two (2) graves.

4. **REVIEW OF THE 2021 LANDSCAPING SCHEDULE:**

The 2021 mowing and trimming schedule at the three (3) cemeteries is the same as 2020. This is the final year of the three (3) year contract with the current landscape company.

5. **REVIEW OF GRAVE SALE PRICE:**

The cost of grave sites in surrounding towns indicated that our current pricing of \$ 375.00 is consistent with most of the neighboring towns. It has been five (5) years since the last increase in the cost of a grave purchase. As one Trustee pointed out, in this troubling financial year of the Covid 19 Pandemic, it would be improper to burden our residents with a price increase at this time. All agreed. Therefore, there will not be an increase in grave costs in 2021.

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6. RE-MEASUREMENT OF SECTION "G" IN HIGHLAND CEMETERY:

As a result of a burial in Sec. "G", it was determined that the layout of graves for this section was incorrect. Due to an error in the map, made over ten (10) years ago, it was determined that there were actually seventeen (17) additional graves available in this section. There are eight (8) additional graves in the front row, and nine (9) more in the back row. The correction has been made to the Highland map.

7. VETERANS FLAGS:

The small U. S. flags were removed from the Veteran graves after Veteran's Day. New Veteran flags will be put in place prior to Memorial Day 2021. As will the pole flags.

8. WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA CEREMONY:

The Wreaths Across America ceremony that was initiated by the Newton Junior Girl Scout Troop #12692 in 2019 and assisted by the Newton Cemetery Trustees, will not be held this year due to the Covid 19 Pandemic.

However, the wreath hangers have been put in place by the Trustees, and the Scout Troop will hang the wreaths on Sat. Dec. 19.

9. SNOW PLOW MARKERS:

Twelve (12) four (4) foot corner markers were put in place at the Willow Grove and Highland Cemeteries as guides for snow plows, if a winter burial is required.

10. REPLACEMENT OF VETERAN'S MEMORIAL AT WILLOW GROVE CEMETERY:

The memorial, which, ten (10) years ago, was relocated to Willow Grove Cemetery, and upgraded, has deteriorated to the point that it needs to be replaced and made more structurally sound.

Funds have been encumbered from the 2020 budget to purchase two (2) new granite nine (9) ft. posts to support the new memorial. The Trustees are working with a local sign company to design a memorial that will not only be sturdy, and long lasting, but will also pay due respect to the Veteran's whose names will appear on the memorial. We currently have 415 names of Newton Veterans on our list.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

William G. Landry

William G. Landry - Chairman
Newton Cemetery Trustees