

Town of Chichester, New Hampshire

Cemetery Trustees Meeting

October 11, 2021

The Cemetery Trustees met at 9:00 a.m. at the Historical Society building.

Ruthie Hammen, Fred Shaw, and Brenda Boswak were in attendance.

Old business.

The Cemetery Trustees received no response from the letter sent August 18, 2021, requesting the fire department remove the firefighters' flags and holders. The Cemetery Trustees removed all flags other than veterans' American flags.

September 20, 2021, the Cemetery Trustees met with Ben Chaffee, President of the Chichester Firefighters' Association, to discuss the concerns expressed by citizens of Chichester over the removal of firefighters' flags from town cemeteries. The Cemetery Trustees assured Ben that there is no disrespect intended by the removal of the flags. We reviewed the flag display policy with him. Clarification was made that this action was not a new policy, but an enforcement of cemetery flag display regulations that have been in place for many years. The trustees agree that current, and past trustees, have been remiss in following up with these rules. A temporary flag display request form is available from the Cemetery Trustees.

Fred has received the updated, accurate list of cemetery trusts.

The new cemetery notice boards are nearly complete and will be installed soon.

Brenda has sent a list of stones in Knowlton-Edgerly cemetery that need repairs to Perry Bros.

Monuments for an estimate. No information on that currently.

The town Road Agent, Craig Sykes, has been very helpful in removing and disposing of dead tree limbs that have fallen in the cemeteries when we ask for his help.

New business.

Ruthie has been very busy assisting people with the purchase of grave lots and helping answer questions about the details of a loved one's interment. She has also been busy answering questions and concerns from people via phone calls and email.

Brenda has met with Todd's Tree Service for an estimate on removing the large dead Ash trees at the Burying Yard/Edmunds Stanyan Cemetery. Large limbs are continually dropping and

endangering the graves stones. The estimate will be submitted to the Board of Selectmen for approval. This was the only company to respond to our request for an estimate.

The Chichester Historical Society is partnering with the cemetery trustees to participate in the Wreaths Across America event. This organization promotes and organizes the placement of wreaths on veterans' graves across America in the month of December. The town of Chichester has 188 veterans' graves to cover. Brenda has signed up Chichester, NH with the Wreaths Across America organization. Fred will make the website

<http://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/NHCACE>

accessible on the Chichester Historical Society's website and forward the website information to Evelyn Pike for publication via Facebook and Concord Monitor. Brenda will contact Kristy to post the website information on the town webpage under current news/events and ask the Chichester Library and Chichester Country Store and some local businesses to display posters for this event. Brenda has contacted Warren Brook Farm on Webster Mills Road for the trustees to purchase any additional veterans' wreaths we need if the goal of 188 wreaths is not met through the Wreaths Across America campaign. Volunteers will be needed for this event. More details will be discussed at the next meeting pertaining to ceremony time and location.

We began the discussion of composing a proposed budget for 2022 to submit to the Budget Committee soon, and posting the RFP for bid for the maintenance contract for the cemetery mowing, trimming etc.

Updates and corrections are still being made to the list of veterans buried in Chichester, NH.

Brenda will ask Kristy to post a reminder on the town website, under the cemetery section and news/events section to remind people of the upcoming October 31 deadline for removing memorabilia displayed at gravesites. A reminder that American flags will be removed after Veterans' Day will also be posted.

Meeting adjourned 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Boswak, Secretary for Cemetery Trustees