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**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Cemetery Trustees**

P.O. BOX 360 – 1 Main Street
BROOKLINE, NH 03033-0360

<http://www.brooklinenh.us>

***Brookline Cemetery Trustees Minutes
September 15, 2023***

Meeting held in person at the Brookline Public Works building and via Zoom

Attending:

Brian Rater, chair
Ann Somers, secretary, via Zoom
Judy Cook, member

Mike Wenrich, sexton

The meeting opened at 11:02 a.m. There was no public input.

Approve minutes

The minutes from August 18th and September 1st were approved unanimously as written: **Brian-Y, Judy-Y, Ann-Y.**

Sexton Report

Mike reported that all has been “quiet” at the cemeteries since the last meeting.

Invoices

Millican Nurseries LLC: 13 trees plus bags for watering them in: \$6,919. **Brian moved, Judy seconded, we voted Yes unanimously to authorize Mike to spend up to \$7,000 toward trees and related expenses.** This purchase includes 10 maples of three varieties and 3 Japanese maples - 2 Bloodgoods and 1 Coral Bark. Judy is donating an additional Bloodgood. The trees are expected to arrive and be planted on September 25th.

Irrigation

Directly following the planting of the trees, the irrigation system will be completed. To support and protect the spigots, we will use the smaller granite posts which are being removed from entrance ways.

Ground-penetrating radar

Mike reported a response from one of two companies he contacted, confirmed that what we are looking for is unmarked graves in the older sections of Pine Grove; he awaits a proposal. We anticipate doing this next year to ascertain which gravesites remain available.

Pine Grove service building repair

Judy reported she has contacted a mason who suggests a more substantial approach than simply pointing; his recommendations include replacing a dozen broken concrete blocks, and coating the exterior to seal it. He will provide a quote. **Judy** plans to paint the door. The first step toward achieving this will be power washing the building. We anticipate accomplishing this next year.

Gravel for roads

This will be done after the trees and irrigation are installed.

Grants

Mike continues to be open to opportunities.

Fencing

In conjunction with the sidewalk project on South Main St, the vinyl fencing will be discarded and the granite posts will be removed and stored over the winter. Next year **Mike** will install a 3-section sample of our proposed post-and-chain fencing and we will seek input from townspeople before moving forward.

Trees

We plan to purchase additional trees for Pine Grove next year, possibly four large ones and some smaller ornamentals, with some of our focus on the currently undesigned southwest section. **Mike** has suggested re-purposing the rocks and boulders currently lining Cross Road to create an extended level SW surface for burials and a lower surface with something like columbaria or a memory garden below, at the Cross/South intersection. **We will include a site review in our next meeting.**

Monument maintenance

Judy reports that with substantial help from **Dave Tiller** and **Matt Sniffen**, the South Fence project is DONE! Monuments have been cleaned, repaired, straightened as needed; spaces have been evaluated carefully and missing corners have been added. There appears to be one unresolved anomaly around plot P-SF-7 which is using 6' of space by family design but leaves unaccounted for another 3'- 4' between itself and P-SF-6. With the bark mulch no longer being managed by family, **Judy is returning the plot to grass and clover** for ease of maintenance.

Judy reported on several other maintenance projects, and noted that the chain fall and tripod is working well for moving heavy monuments.

Budget for 2024

Brian offered a proposed budget of \$34,700; discussion and adjustments brought the total to \$40,300.

Ann moved, Brian seconded, and we voted 2-1 to request \$27,500 from town funds: Ann-Y, Brian-Y, Judy-N, Judy preferring a higher figure. **We voted unanimously to accept the overall budget for 2024.**

	2023 Appropriations/Revenue	2023 Actual Expenditure/Revenue	2024 Proposed	Notes
Revenue:				
Rights to Inter				
Expenses:				
Mowing,				
Landscaping and				
Maintenance	\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00	
Tree Maintenance	\$12,000.00		\$5,000.00	8 trees
Gravel for Roads	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00	
Monument				
Maintenance	\$1,300.00		\$1,300.00	\$500 for contractors
Burials	\$400.00		\$400.00	
Office	\$0.00	\$1,507.00	\$0.00	
Building Repair			\$4,000.00	
Pine Grove Irrigation		\$324.90		
Electricity			\$100.00	should be \$250
Ground Penetrating				
Radar			\$2,000.00	
Fencing			\$500.00	
Mapping			\$1,000.00	
Total Expenses:	\$39,700.00		\$40,300.00	
From trust funds:	\$15,000.00		\$12,800.00	
Net Tax				
Appropriations:	\$24,700.00		\$27,500.00	

The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m. **The next meeting** is scheduled for Friday, October 13, 2023 at 11:00 a.m., initial location TBD, either at Pine Grove Cemetery SW corner, or at the Public Works Building.

Minutes submitted by Ann C. Somers