

**Minutes**  
**30 August 2016**  
**Cemetery Board of Trustees**  
**Town of Wilton NH**

**Attendees:** Board members-John Jowders (Chairperson), Steve Elliott, Mary Ann Shea (Secretary).  
Others-Sandy LaFleur and Alisha Dimasi.

**Public Input.**

We began the meeting with public input from Sandy LaFleur and Alisha Dimasi. They came to the Board to discuss the possibility of allowing “green” burials in the Wilton cemeteries.

Sandy gave us some handouts and mentioned some websites that address the specifics of green burials. More people are looking for a more basic and environmentally-friendly burial process...one that does not involve embalming, treated (non-biodegradable) caskets, or the use of a burial vault (concrete, plastic, or otherwise). We are beginning to see a return to home funerals in the area, with the body staying at home for viewing/visitation/vigil.

Currently, there are only 2 cemetery locations in New Hampshire offering green burial space-one is in Jaffrey (a Quaker cemetery) and the other is the town of Richmond NH. Sandy and Alisha discussed the concept of putting the green burials in the peripheral areas of the existing cemeteries as an option, since the natural decomposition process can create indentations which may cause issues for mowing. Some places allow trees to be planted in this type of burial ground, but each cemetery has its own rules and regulations. [At this time, the closest thing to a green burial here is having the vault placed over the coffin upside down in the grave.]

(For further information, see [www.greenburialcouncil.org](http://www.greenburialcouncil.org), [www.thresholdcarecircle.org](http://www.thresholdcarecircle.org), <http://www.nhfuneral.org/Green-Burial.html>.)

Sandy and Alisha gave a very good presentation (they have also gotten Carl Michaud to offer his support, and are also encouraging other town cemetery boards to “go green”); the members of this Board see no problem with green burials in the existing cemeteries. Our main concern is whether there are any state rules and regulations which might preclude these types of burials-we will check with the Attorney General's Office, and Sandy and Alisha will do the same. The Board will continue to discuss the possibility of green burials at future meetings, and we invited Sandy and Alisha to come back in a couple of months to check on progress.

We thanked the guests for their presentation, and they left the meeting.

The meeting was officially called to order at 7:40 p.m.

**Review of Minutes for meetings of 7/26/16.**

- Minutes were reviewed. Steve moved to accept minutes as written; Mary Ann seconded. All approved.

**Unfinished Business.**

- **Tree Removal at South Yard Cemetery:** work has been completed, on budget! Looks good.
- **Fence repair/painting at Laurel Hill Cemetery:** Still on budget, painting is finished, there are a few more pickets to be done, and the bottoms of the pickets will be cut off (most are rotting where they contact the ground). It should be completed in the next week or so!

- **Retaining wall on lot in Vale End Cemetery:** Mary Ann *still* (and again) needs to write up a note to leave on the stone asking the family to contact us.
- **Meeting with the Trustees of the Trust Funds:** Mary Ann contacted Jenny; waiting to hear what works for their Board.

#### **Review Bills/Budget.**

- Still trying to sort out the \$500 water bill issue.
- Staffing is an issue (again). Looking for someone who might be interested in doing fall work.
- Budget report looks good; wondering what the “travel” charge is for. It wasn't in our detailed report. Steve will check.

#### **New Business.**

- David Crawford asked about grave site availability in the Batchelder/Tallarico/Crawford lot in South Yard. He believes there is a space available. We checked the maps (such as they are) and the deeds/right to inter documents...it isn't clear what the actual lot number is, and we don't have any copy of the deed. Steve will check on the number of burials in the lot and the number of spaces that might be left. David also needs to find the deed/right to inter—we need to know who has the right to be buried in the plot (or who makes that decision). Mary Ann will contact Mr. Crawford.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, September 27, 2016

The meeting adjourned at around 8:10 p.m.

Lot opening cost:      Weekday Full burial - \$300      Weekday Urn burial - \$125

There is an additional charge of \$125 for burials on Weekends and Holidays (full or urn burial).

Prices **will** be substantially higher if, with permission of the trustees, a winter burial should occur.

When you need to schedule an opening, please call Steve Elliott at (603) 654-6602. At least 2 days (48 hours) notice is required.

## Purpose and Intent

For the mutual protection of lot owners and the Wilton Town Cemeteries as a whole, the following rules and regulations are hereby established for Laurel Hill, South Yard and Vale End Cemeteries and all town managed cemeteries. All lot owners and persons visiting the cemeteries will be expected to abide by such rules and regulations as herein enacted and as hereafter amended, which are intended to assist in maintaining these cemeteries as a peaceful and beautiful area as well as reverent symbol of respect for the dead.

## Section I. Rules

These rules are established in accordance with New Hampshire RSA 289 Cemeteries/Burials.

1. Burials will be permitted, except as noted in Section II. B below, at all times during the "Normal Burial Period" of April 15th through December 1st of the calendar year unless there is a significant snowfall after April 15th or prior to December 1st making lot determination uncertain.
2. There will be no burials on Sundays or any day observed as a Holiday by the Town of Wilton.
3. Funeral Directors are required to give a 48 hour notice to the Cemetery Board of Trustees prior to burial.
4. One full body burial, (when/if placed prior to any/all cremation burials) two infant burials or four individual urn burials per grave lot will be allowed. Any request beyond what is permitted can be reviewed by the Cemetery Board of Trustees.
5. All full body burials shall be enclosed in a permanent outside container such as a concrete vault, concrete one piece top grave liner or metal vault.
6. No animal carcass will be buried in any cemetery proper. Animals may be cremated and buried in a permanent outside container within an existing lot.

## Section II. Sale of Lots

1. The purchase of a cemetery lot is the purchase of the right of burial in the lot selected and the "deed" receipt does not imply ownership of the land in which a grave is contained.
2. The prices of cemetery lots are as follow: One grave lots \$450; two grave lots \$900; three grave lots \$1350 four grave lots are \$1800. General care is included in the price of the lot. General care includes raking, mowing, seeding, and fertilizing when necessary and when it is within budget constraints. Payment for lots will be made to the Trustee of the Trust Funds. Payment must be made in full at the time of purchase if purchase is pre-need. Payment must be made within 60 days if the purchase of the lot is at the time of need.
3. Lots may be purchased by any current resident of Wilton, previous residents with proof of 10 years or more of Wilton residency, immediate family members of current Wilton residents or immediate family members of previous residents with proof of 10 years or more of Wilton residency. "Immediate family

member” is defined as parent, child, legal guardian or ward.

4. Any request to purchase greater than grave 4 lots per person/ family will require the review and approval of the Board of Cemetery Trustees.

### **Section III. Markers and Monuments**

1. No monument, cenotaph, headstone or other structure may be erected or placed in the cemetery without proper foundation approved by the Cemetery Trustees.

2. With respect to markers, monuments or other memorial structures, the following maximum measurements shall apply:

1. On single or two grave lots a monument shall be allowed with a base not exceed three (3) feet wide by one (1) foot deep and the total height shall not exceed three (3) feet. All monuments must be placed at “Head” of individual lots.

2. Lots containing four or more graves a traditional monument shall be allowed with a base not to exceed five (5) feet wide by two (2) feet deep and a total height not to exceed forty-two (42) inches.

3. Flush markers for individual graves markers should be placed at the foot end of said grave. No more than two “Flush” markers are allowed per grave lot. (marker(s) must not exceed one foot wide and two feet long.

4. Any marker type not identified in these rules will require review and approval of the Board of Cemetery Trustees.

### **Section IV. Landscaping and Decorations**

1. Planting of trees and shrubs is prohibited.

2. No fence or flowers shall be placed around the perimeter of any lot.

3. Flowers can be placed adjacent to a monument in a sturdy flower container. When floral arrangements no longer appear respectful for cemetery grounds, they will be discarded by the Overseer of cemeteries.

4. All work done in the cemetery by lot owners or their employees will be subject to supervision by the Overseer of Cemeteries. All waste and rubbish resulting from this work will be removed by the lot owner or their employee.

5. Small flags will be allowed on lots with the understanding that the Overseer of Cemeteries will have the right to remove them at a later date if necessary for maintenance.

6. All other items left at the lot site after 8 weeks post burial will be removed by the Overseer of the Cemeteries and discarded.

### **Section V. Forfeiture Procedures**

Spaces unused for a period of 50 years will be subject to forfeiture procedures in accordance with RSA 289:18.

Requests for consideration to alter any of the above rules can be submitted to the Wilton Cemetery Trustees.

Revised & Approved: 26 July 2016