

**Cemetery Commission**  
**May 3, 2010**  
**Hooksett Public Library, 6:30pm**

**Present:** Cemetery trustees Sharron Champagne and Mike Horne  
(Tina Paquette out of state/unable to call in)

**Minutes:** Reviewed minutes from Feb 11, 2010 meeting. Motion to approve as written (Sharron), 2<sup>nd</sup> (Mike), unanimously approved.

**Public Input:** Mr. Arnold Green, 11 Pleasant St, passed out a recent newspaper article on efforts in Bedford, NH to preserve their cemeteries. According to the article, last year a non-profit organization was formed in Bedford and they are raising money to provide extra care for the town's cemeteries. Efforts were funded to repair 30 gravestones. Mr. Green shared his thoughts with the Trustees, saying that Hooksett's history is in its cemeteries. That the monuments (upright headstones) help visitors learn of the past and the individuals who lived and died in Hooksett. He cited example of cemeteries in other towns where there are well maintained; and special and/or unique memorials/monuments that portray lives and characteristics of the decedents. He proposed there be a small section of the Heads cemetery identified to install a bench or two and monument for visitors to stop and rest when they visit. Currently there is nothing like that in any of the town cemeteries. Mr. Green said he would purchase lots for this area if needed. The trustees approved of the concept and will follow-up with him in the near future. Also discussed was the current proposal of the American Legion Post funding and placing monuments for veterans in Heads and Martins cemeteries.

**Old Business:**

American Legion Post request for a veterans' memorials at Heads and Martins – Sharron said she had been contacted by Andy Felch and would get back to him. Mike confirmed location agreed upon at Martins.

Historical Society and New Signs: Nothing new from Jim Sullivan on proposed signs.

Heritage Commission: Mike volunteered to get information on exact location and ownership of the Hall Mountain Cemetery. Tentative plans were made for a site visit.

**Maintenance Issues:**

- Heads: Mike checked Heads cemetery after the Feb 26<sup>th</sup> wind storm and then called Dale @ Highways. There were 3-4 large trees down on the lower perimeter and a few fir trees in the Old Section. One balsam stump uplifted a monument. Damaged trees were removed week of March 8<sup>th</sup>. Mike had not made headway on getting information on maintenance of the sign.
- Martins: Mike still needs to get written quotations for the repair of bent and broken parts of the fence.
- Riverside: No progress on getting quotes for a new fence.

Review of Rules and Regulations: Sharron shared some examples of R&R from other cemeteries. Items liked and noted were. Having grave/lot and section numbers on the base of

stones/monuments; dimensional criteria of maximum size for monuments on single and double graves; no bushes or trees to be planted or replaced.

Town Web Site (cemetery related): The minutes for cemetery commission meetings can now be posted on the Town web site. Mike will forward Evelyn copies of minutes that he has.

Consolidating files and maps in Town Hall: After the meeting at the library ended, Mike met Sharron at the Town Hall and showed her where cemetery commission files are stored in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor storage room.

### **New Business**

Finding/Visiting Family/Civil War cemeteries in Hooksett: (see OLD BUSINESS above – Mike to get information on Hall Mountain cemetery).

### **Record Keeping:**

Plot sales: Stephen Howell has reserved two lots in Martins and plans to purchase them on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Monument Approvals: no action recorded.

Burials: Jane Thompson/Martins; Marilyn E. Goodwin/Martins; Jordon Howard Sobel/Heads. Mike still needs copies of these burial permits to enter into database.

Next Meeting: To be announced

Adjourn – Departed Library and ended meeting at Town Hall about 8PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Horne  
For Recording Secretary