

Hollis Cemetery Trustees

Meeting Minutes, March 4th, 2017
Meeting held at Town Hall Community Room

Trustees in attendance: Marc Squires, Raul Blanche, Melinda Willis, and Lisa Schmalz. Melinda called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM.

- 1) Revolutionary War-era Small Pox Epidemic – As future action on this topic is still forming, Melinda took an action to call Terry Knowles, Assistant Administrator, New Hampshire Justice Department, for guidance on several items including: how to proceed, regarding the possible role of an archeologist, and any possible health and historical issues. For background, there is a need to find the unmarked burial area bounded and near the Nashua River, Rideout road and Route 111 where some Revolutionary War prisoners and some Hollis people were buried after Small Pox broke out in 1779. Two houses located between the Bowditch House and the Nashua River were used as hospitals. From 1775 through 1783, New Hampshire troops who participated in the war and some prisoners were allegedly sent to Hollis and treated. Once found, the location needs to be marked and preserved for the future. Ebenezer Cummings had died of Small Pox in 1778 and it is rumored that the Tories used his coat to spread Small Pox among Hollis people. At least six Hollis victims were buried there and the site needs to be found before remains are dug up by accident. Plans for a housing development have been discussed over the last few years.
- 2) Upcoming Expansion of East Cemetery – The Trustees discussed the need for Beverly, Trustees administrative assistant, to provide the Trustees the number of lots that will be available for sale at East and North cemeteries. This information will be needed in discussion of expansion plans at future meetings.
- 3) Howe Family Interment at Pine Hill Cemetery – Melinda also discussed with Terry Knowles the Howe family request. Per Terry, the Howe family is responsible for providing proof of lot ownership. (The town owns the lots until the Howe's prove lot ownership by providing a copy of the deeds.) Currently the Howe lots are closed, except for several by name interments agreed to previously between the Howe family and the town. It should be noted that the Howe lot sizes are large enough to accommodate additional rights to inter. For that three actions must happen: 1) Amend existing agreements; 2) Rights to inter must be purchased and 3) existing records must be fully clarified. Regarding clarification of records, Raul made a motion and Melinda seconded it to acquire the services of Ms. Nancy Struckman, former editor of the Hollis Times, who will research, report on, and create a historical, accurate record on Howe family burials at Pine Hill Cemetery. The amendment passed on a 4-0 vote.

An updated official map at Pine Hill Cemetery will also be required. Additional consultation with the developer of the current official maps, R. L. Ouellette Associates, LLC and/or other appropriate parties may also be required. In addition, other professional support needs will be determined as the project progresses.

Lisa made a motion seconded by Melinda, to allow burial of Debbie Christianson during June 2017 at Pine Hill Cemetery Lot 30-1-B contingent of proof of lot ownership by deed or purchase of right-to-inter before interment (at which point the lot will be closed pending completion of the Howe lot history project. Upon completion of project, lot reconfiguration will be considered.)

- 4) Landscape Services 2017 Contract - Marc and Bev will contact several potential bidders to request bids which will then be reviewed at the next Trustees meeting.
- 5) Approval of Meeting Minutes - January meeting minutes were approved as amended, unanimously on a 4-0 vote, on a motion by Lisa that was seconded by Marc.

The next meeting is scheduled for 1 April, 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 AM on a unanimous 4-0 vote, based on a motion by Raul and seconded by Lisa.

Respectfully submitted,

Raul Blanche