July 18, 2014

Open letter from the Hollis Cemetery Trustees:

The Hollis Cemetery Trustees have begun implementation of a multi-part plan to improve the quality of the lawns in our town’s cemeteries. For a second season, grubs have done significant damage to several of the cemeteries, notably East Cemetery on Wheeler Road, North Cemetery on Silver Lake Road and Pine Hill Cemetery on Pine Hill Road. The Cemetery Trustees have found the conditions unacceptable and are committed to this improvement plan.

First, all five town cemeteries received a professional grub treatment application in early July (coordinated around rain to ensure best results). Second, all cemeteries will begin a spring / fall fertilizer cycle to promote healthy growth of the lawn. Finally, over-seeding will be applied to damaged areas in September when optimal weather conditions exist for growing new seed. Similar to care and nurture of a home lawn, these actions will take time and patience to produce the desired results.

An important element of this plan will be its implementation on an annual basis, in a proactive manner. To that end, the Cemetery Trustees will be requesting an increase to the lawn maintenance budget for 2015 and beyond to ensure we have adequate resources to care for our cemeteries.

The Cemetery Trustees, along with so many of you in our town, care deeply about the state of our cemeteries. We visit loved ones, friends and neighbors in our cemeteries and with you will continue our focus to ensure the grounds look the best they possibly can.

Very respectfully,

Hollis Cemetery Trustees