

Report of the Fremont Cemetery Trustees

The Cemetery Trustees had another busy year in 2019. We held meetings nearly every month of the year on the first Tuesday of the month at 4:00 pm in the new downstairs meeting room at the Town Hall. Our meeting dates can be found on the monthly meeting calendar on the Town Website.

2019 saw the retirement of Bruce White as Cemetery Superintendent in October. He has served in this position faithfully for several years and his services were much appreciated by this and previous boards of Cemetery Trustees over the years. Fremont was fortunate to hire a qualified, experienced worker from just over the town line in Danville. We welcome Scott Cook and thank him for the hard work he has already put into Fremont Cemeteries.

Another accomplishment made by the Cemetery Trustees was the hiring of a part-time Cemetery Sexton in 2018 whose job is to work a few hours a week to oversee the efficient running of burials, selling burial lots, recording burial lot deeds, administering the laws and town rules for burials, cremations, burial lot boundaries, and maintenance of the Town cemetery records. Ms. Shawn Perreault has been performing this job very capably and conscientiously since being hired. She has helped to oversee the day to day cemetery responsibilities in an efficient and dependable manner. The current Cemetery Trustees have long recognized the vital need to organize and implement an orderly structure when recording, maintaining, and selling burial lots within town cemeteries. Shawn is making this a reality and she has conducted considerable research in organizing past & present burials -- especially in the 1819 Village Cemetery. This has proven to be a tremendous help in organizing Fremont burial records that have long been overlooked in the past 60 years. Thank you Shawn for all your hard work.

This year marked the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the Fremont Village Cemetery when Mr. Hanson Newhall became the first person buried in this cemetery in November 1819. He was "buried in a spot that served as the Allen & Michael Newhall family garden the previous spring."

The Hoyt-Currier Cemetery on South Road was established 260 years ago in 1759 (and possibly a little earlier). The huge old Oak Tree that adorned the middle of this ancient cemetery sadly fell down in October during a strong rain & wind storm. It was cleaned up in late December. The Trustees had planned to cut it down in 2019 but it fell before we could get to it. Fortunately, no gravestones were seriously damaged.

Wreaths Across America were placed on graves around various Fremont Cemeteries again this year. This has been the eighth year of that annual event. Thank you to Gerry Tilley for chairing the event. Her hard work and dedication are much appreciated by all...especially the families of deceased war veterans.

2019 marked the 140th anniversary of Memorial Day Observances here in Fremont at the Village Cemetery. Ms. Mildred (Emerson) Frye is the last known native Fremont World War II surviving veteran. "Milly" was honored during the 2019 Memorial Day Exercises along with other family members who have marched in every Fremont Memorial Day Parade since 1920. Town Historian Matthew E. Thomas served as Guest Speaker and gave an interesting talk on Fremont's many proud and valuable contributions to various war efforts dating back to the French & Indian War of 1756-1763.

Work is progressing along with the new section of the circa 1777 Knowles-Carr-Chase-Leavitt Cemetery on Leavitt Road. Several burials have taken place in the new section in recent years. It looks much better now that the old 1927 cement concrete wall has been taken down.

The Trustees sincerely wish to THANK current Cemetery worker Scott Cook as well as former Superintendent Bruce White, and helpers Steve Carder & Lloyd Bishop for their hard work in cleaning, mowing, and repairing the five main town cemeteries of which only three are still utilized in 2019. Few people can appreciate how much work goes into maintaining Fremont's cemeteries such as mowing, trimming, brush clean up, re-setting stones, etcetera.

Blue Sky Landscape mows and cleans up the Village & Leavitt Cemeteries once in the Spring and again in late Fall. Because it is nearly impossible to get and maintain enough local mowers to maintain our cemeteries, we now have to outsource these services to landscape companies who bid on doing the work. THANKS are extended to Blue Sky for the exceptional work they perform for Fremont.

It was voted by the Trustees to increase the cost of burial lots from \$300.00 to \$350.00 to bring them in line with neighboring towns and to help raise money to continue to be able to maintain repairs and landscape work in our twelve town-wide cemeteries. An Expendable Trust Fund was also created to manage all of the cemetery sales moving forward. Town cemeteries are closed for burials annually from December 1 to April 1 due to ground freeze.

To purchase a cemetery lot, you should speak with Sexton Shawn Perreault by leaving a message at 603 770 8929.

Respectfully submitted,

Fremont Cemetery Trustees

Matthew E. Thomas, Chairman
Jeanne T. Nygren
Michael Nygren