

## **Report of the Cemetery Trustees**

Despite the Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020, it has still been a productive and busy year for the Fremont Cemetery Trustees. Monthly meetings were held nearly every month of the year. Our meetings are posted two weeks ahead of time and usually start at 4:00 pm on the second Tuesday of the month.

First, we want to thank our faithful and dependable cemetery workers Scott Cook, Lloyd Bishop, Steve & Ben Carder for working so hard and with considerable dedication helping to keep our cemeteries mowed and well manicured. It is a great deal of work and they all do a terrific job -- especially during long, hot summers!

Secondly, the Trustees want to thank our Cemetery Sexton Shawn Perreault for her professionalism overseeing a number of cemetery responsibilities such as burials, burial lot sales, keeping accurate records, meeting minutes, and researching & updating the 1819 Village Cemetery Map. Appointing a Cemetery Sexton in 2018 has proven a very worthwhile and wise decision by the Trustees. The Town is growing rapidly, paperwork is never-ending, and trying to hire and maintain competent workers to handle these various responsibilities is becoming more and more of a challenge each passing year. Therefore, we sincerely thank Shawn, Scott, Lloyd, & Steve for their truly reliable dedication and professionalism.

Thirdly, we want to sincerely thank the Fremont Parks & Recreation maintenance staff Ralph and Thomas Paoletta for kindly cleaning up the many piles of tree branches in the Hoyt-Currier Cemetery on South Road this past November.

The Trustees amended and proposed an improved version of the Fremont Cemetery Ordinance. This was approved by the Selectmen in November. The new Ordinance clearly define the various rules & regulations necessary in purchasing new burial lots, cremation and casket burial procedures, incorporating gravesite corner stones, the size and height of proposed gravestones, burial lot fees, recording cemetery lot deeds, placement of flowers & ornaments on gravesites, etcetera. Finally, Fremont cemeteries will have an orderly, sensible, reliable, consistent set of rules that will help overseeing the cemeteries in an orderly, cost-effective, logical manner -- thus finally eliminating numerous unpredictable, confusing obstacles that have frequently plagued both past & present boards of cemetery trustees for decades.

2020 also saw the layout of another road in the back of the Knowles-Carr-Chase-Leavitt Cemetery. All-Phase Paving did the road work in November. Now the Trustees can layout lots in sections A, B, C, & D without obstacles.

Blue Sky has done a consistently great job at cleaning up leaves, limbs, and debris in both the Village & Knowles-Leavitt Cemeteries each autumn and spring so that our cemetery workers can focus on keeping up with the mowing and upkeep of these two large cemeteries.

Scott Cook up righted several fallen gravestones in the 1777 Knowles-Carr-Chase-Leavitt Cemetery during 2020. What an incredible improvement in appearance and orderliness in this historic old cemetery now. He also plans to weed and seal the roads in the Village Cemetery as soon as time allows. Scott has also sought out reasonable estimates from various vendors for new or upgraded equipment vital to maintaining our cemeteries in an efficient, cost effective manner. Scott also over-saw the placement of a new roof on the Village Cemetery Shed which was much needed after years of weather erosion.

Special thanks to Trustees Jeanne & Michael Nygren for seeking estimates for a suitable and practical Cemetery Shed to be placed in the Knowles-Carr-Chase-Leavitt Cemetery. The shed will be purchased at a discount because the Trustees purchased it in the autumn when sheds are significantly discounted in price. Funds have been encumbered for the site work and electrical work for the new shed when it is installed next spring. It will no longer be necessary to transport a riding mower, walking mower, weed whackers, and assorted working tools every time the cemetery caretakers have to haul everything up from the Village Cemetery to this cemetery on Leavitt Road.

Due to the Corona-virus Pandemic of 2020, and the unpredictability of adequate sponsors and volunteers to distribute wreaths on every Veterans' grave, it was recommended by the Trustees for this year only, that the sponsor of Wreaths Across America just place 5 or 6 wreaths across the front of both the Village & Leavitt Cemeteries instead of upon every Veteran's grave. We appreciate all the hard work that goes into making this 9th annual event a reality.

Work is still being undertaken in securing a suitable piece of land for a possible new cemetery and/or addition to an existing cemetery on South Road. The potential donors indicate they are still very interested in doing something to provide a suitable piece of land in memory of their devoted parents -- as an alternative cemetery for all interested Fremont families to utilize.

The Cemetery Trustees are extremely grateful for the support they receive from the Selectmen, Town Administrator, and various townspeople who understand and support our goals of improving and upgrading our local cemeteries -- all in a sincere attempt to truly minimize and reduce the future tax burden associated with maintaining our local cemeteries. Too many aspects of essential cemetery upkeep, improvements & practical record-keeping were severely lacking over several decades. We have diligently tried to address these various problems in a practical, cost-effective manner on a yearly basis. Progress is finally being reflected in the efficiency and orderliness of the management of our Fremont cemeteries. THANK YOU for your continued support and understanding.

Most respectfully,

Matthew E. Thomas, Chairman  
Jeanne Nygren  
Michael Nygren