

Report of the Fremont Cemetery Trustees

This year marks the second year of the Covid-19 Virus & Pandemic. Despite the challenges this has imposed, we are very grateful for the dedication and commitment that our cemetery workers & staff have done this past year to professionally oversee burial procedures, mowing, tree removal & trimming, clean-up, and maintaining the over-all respectful appearance of our Fremont cemeteries. Wearing masks, maintaining physical distancing, getting vaccinations and booster shots, have all made this past year a challenging one for most Town workers and citizens. For this, we **sincerely thank Scott Cook, Lloyd Bishop, Steve & Ben Carder and Thomas Paoletta for being so dependable and reliable.** We could not have succeeded without their incredible hard work in helping to maintain our Town cemeteries.

Unfortunately, our dedicated Cemetery Superintendent Scott Cook retired in November. We will sincerely miss his professionalism, dependability, and reliable commitment. We wish him great happiness in his well-deserved retirement. As a result of losing Scott, the Trustees are again tasked with the difficult responsibility of trying to hire new cemetery workers. This is NOT an easy undertaking anymore! It is very difficult trying to find competent, reliable, dedicated people to help mow and maintain our cemeteries. This is further complicated by the resignation of Lloyd Bishop in August. We have been advertising for help for several months now but to no avail as of early January. If not successful, we will be forced to resort to hiring a landscaping company to do the work, and even with that, most landscapers pass on cemetery maintenance work because they can make much more money on smaller projects. **Therefore, if you, or someone you know, would be interested in devoting about ten to twenty hours a week during the warm weather months to help with the upkeep of three cemeteries, please call Heidi Carlson, Town Administrator at 603 895 2226 x 301. We really need your help!** We thank Scott and Lloyd for all their work for the Town.

The Cemetery Trustees held monthly meetings during several months of the year. We usually meet on the second Tuesday of the month in the Town Hall basement meeting room. All meetings are posted two weeks ahead of time and usually start at 4:00 pm. The public is always welcome to attend our meetings.

Much progress was made this year on several fronts, especially with the Knowles-Chase-Leavitt Cemetery on Leavitt Road. Because of serious neglect in decades past, much repair work has had to be focused on the upkeep and maintenance of this cemetery. As I'm sure most of you are keenly aware, not even the smallest of repair or restoration projects is inexpensive anymore. There was a time when many retired citizens in small communities volunteered to do cemetery work for nominal



fees, those “good old days” are apparently now a thing of the past. Therefore, your Cemetery Trustees sincerely do try hard to be as cost effective and farsighted as possible with everything we do, but unfortunately even that doesn’t often seem to be enough anymore.

A small utility shed was erected during the late spring in the rear of the Leavitt Cemetery so that cemetery maintenance equipment can now be housed without having to use private vehicles & trailers to frequently transport mowers, tools, supplies, etcetera, back and forth



from the 1819 Village Cemetery to the ca. 1777 Knowles-Chase-Leavitt Cemetery. Leon Holmes Jr and his crew did an excellent job of grading and seeding a portion of the rear section of this same cemetery. Crushed stone was also placed upon the remaining roads in the rear of the Knowles-Chase-Leavitt Cemetery this year as well. This will help prevent these pathways from being re-claimed and over-run with weeds

& grass. We have encumbered funds to replace a portion of the broken wall along the north side of the cemetery with a suitable metal fence. Supply and scheduling delays prohibited finishing this work in 2021. We also hope to repair a small section of the granite wall in front of this cemetery, and a larger section on the front of Village Cemetery. The Trustees also thank Tim Lavelle for setting the rear fence line at Leavitt and tying off the fences.

Unfortunately, our hopes of securing another possible cemetery site on South Road as we had hoped during the past two years, has not materialized due to unexpected change of plans for that property. We genuinely appreciate the support and consideration of the property owner who sincerely had the best of intentions in making this a reality for the Town.

Scott Cook and Matthew Thomas devoted many free hours towards re-setting and raising old gravestones in the circa 1759 Hoyt-Currier Cemetery on South Road last April. This helps preserve gravestones from becoming buried, lost, or from being so low to the ground that they can unwittingly damage mowing equipment while grooming these old graveyards. Scott also diligently helped do the same work within the Knowles-Chase-Leavitt Cemetery throughout this year and last.

Shawn Perreault, our Cemetery Sexton continues to perform her duties as efficiently and competently through the years despite dealing with some unexpected challenges beyond her control this past year. She oversees all burials in Town cemeteries, and continues to research, upgrade, and improve the accuracy on our Village Cemetery Lots Map. We appreciate her hard work, she helps keep the Trustees up-to-date on projects, and informs us of vital information needed to perform our jobs in a competent manner. **Thank you very much Shawn!**

Last but not least, I wish to extend to **Michael & Jeanne Nygren** deep appreciation and thanks for being such competent and capable Cemetery Trustees over these past several years. They have exhibited immense dedication to doing whatever it took to genuinely provide valuable input, and frugally resolve whatever issues and concerns that affect our Fremont cemeteries. They have been wonderful and thoughtful team players.

It goes without saying, that the Cemetery Trustees are especially grateful and appreciative of the support, advice, and input that we always receive from the **Select Board, Town Administrator Heidi Carlson, and the various townspeople** who understand and support our goals. We continue to strive to resolve all essential cemetery-related issues in as frugal, cost-effective, and far-sighted manner as is humanly possible, all in hopes of striving to save taxpayers in the future as much money as can reasonably be expected.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew E. Thomas, Chairman
Jeanne Nygren
Michael Nygren

The Fremont Garden Club hard at work this holiday season, making swags and kissing balls to decorate the Fremont Community.

Thank you all for your work!



Photos courtesy of Michelle Gallant and Heidi Carlson