

## Report of the Cemetery Trustees

The Cemetery Trustees accomplished quite a bit in 2018. 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.

Because no one signed up to run for the open Cemetery Trustee position in March vacated by outgoing Trustee Richard Pinder, it became necessary to advertise for someone to be appointed to the position. Jeanne Nygren was the only volunteer that came forward and she was voted in by the two other Trustees in April. We are most fortunate to have her considerable knowledge and clerical skills to help aid in the day to day implementation of this Town Department. Welcome aboard Jeanne!

Another accomplishment made by the Cemetery Trustees this year was the hiring of a part-time Cemetery Sexton who works two or three 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 coordinating with the Superintendent. Shawn Perreault was selected out of three candidates and appointed by the Trustees and Selectmen in May. Shawn has also worked diligently to research and organize cemetery records and deeds that have been haphazardly kept over the past 60 years. 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 her work cut out for her because previous boards refused to recognize this need and now it has become necessary to play catch up.

A major accomplishment this year implemented by the Trustees was the dismantling in October of an old crumbled cement wall erected back in 1927 in the Knowles-Chase-Leavitt Cemetery on Leavitt Road. The elimination of this wall now enhances and unites the old and new sections of this historic circa 1777 graveyard and makes for a much more attractive resting place.

The Trustees sincerely wish to THANK Cemetery Superintendent Bruce White, helpers Jackson Rowell, Steve and Ben 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 2018.

Photo courtesy of Dennis Howland and Mary Kaltenbach, Fremont Garden Club

Village Cemetery Flagpole



Few people can appreciate how much work goes into maintaining Fremont's cemeteries such as mowing, trimming, brush clean up, re-setting stones, and 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 have outsourced some of 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 to \$350 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. This change is pending a final Public Hearing to be held by the Selectmen.

Fremont 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 the Selectmen's Office at 603 895 2226 (x 301, 302, 303) to leave a message for Cemetery Sexton Shawn Perreault.

Additional information is available on the Town's website as well:

[http://www.fremont.nh.gov/Pages/FremontNH\\_Bcomm/Cemetery/Index](http://www.fremont.nh.gov/Pages/FremontNH_Bcomm/Cemetery/Index)

Respectfully submitted,

Fremont Cemetery Trustees

Steven Harms, Chairman  
Matthew E. Thomas  
Jeanne T. Nygren

Area seeded where the wall was  
removed at Leavitt Cemetery in  
September 2018

Photo courtesy of Shawn Perreault

