

## **Report of the Cemetery Trustees**

2015 was another busy year for the Cemetery Trustees who met nearly every month during the year. The Trustees usually meet every first Tuesday of the month at 4:00 pm in the basement meeting room of the Town Hall. These meeting dates can be found on the meeting calendar on the Town's website.

First we must acknowledge the sad loss of Meredith "Chickee" Bolduc on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Chickee served Fremont as its Land Use Administrative Assistant for many years and one of her functions was to serve as secretary to the Fremont Cemetery Trustees. She performed this duty exceptionally well and kept all of us on our toes. Her knowledge & expertise will be greatly missed. Fortunately, Jeanne Nygren, another dedicated town servant has stepped up to the plate and is admirably filling Chickee's big shoes with regard to cemeteries. We THANK YOU Jeanne for your fine work thus far.

The Trustees worked hard this year to fine-tune and improve Cemetery burials and gravesite regulations in an effort to keep better & more efficient records of grave lots sold, burials & cremations made, placement of monuments, and grave lot locations & sizes. The Fremont Cemetery Ordinance was upgraded, clarified, and improved in an effort to correct or improve vague language and various inadequacies. All this was done to make it much easier for the present and future Cemetery Trustee Boards to be able to improve and maintain better record-keeping and documentation formats on the "who, what, where, when, and how" of all future burials, cremations, monument placements, burial lot sales & gravesite locations. These much-belated improvements will help make these various tasks easier to expedite and preserve vital cemetery records in the future.

A local stonemason was hired in October to repair a section of the eastside stonewall in the Fremont Village Cemetery that has a large eight-foot long granite block tilting over and causing a potentially dangerous hazard.

Also, the Trustees have decided that the time has now come for a Cemetery Sexton to be appointed & hired, and whose duties will be to oversee the work performed by Cemetery maintenance personnel, to oversee burial placements and burial lot sales, and monument installations in conjunction with grave excavators, various funeral home directors, and various gravestone monument companies. The Cemetery Sexton with an annual stipend of \$3,000 for his or her services is proposed in the 2016 budget.

Thanks and appreciation are extended to Bruce White, Jess Downing, Jackson Rowell, and Rick Pinder for their hard work in keeping the Cemeteries trimmed and mowed throughout the year. Also many thanks to Leon Holmes Jr and Richard Pinder for assisting Cemetery Trustee Matthew Thomas in the May placement of new cemetery signs in various cemeteries throughout the Town that were donated by the Fremont 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. It is planned to have some lilac bushes planted in the Village Cemetery in 2016 that were

generously donated by the Fremont 250<sup>th</sup> Committee as well. This effort had to be postponed until 2016 due to the very dry spring & summer we had during 2015.

A new iron gate was installed for the Hoyt-Currier Cemetery in May on South Road that replaced the old deteriorated wooden gate. Thanks to Bob Henderson for the fine job done on making the new iron gate.

Additional gravesites were laid out in the new section of the circa 1777 Knowles-Chase-Carr-Leavitt Cemetery on Leavitt Road. Several have been sold during 2015. Additional loam and seeding will take place in 2016 on newly laid-out sections of this recently expanded portion of this historic old cemetery.

The Trustees will continue to look into the potential funding for repairs to many broken gravestones in the Town Cemeteries in 2016. Meantime, **sincere thanks are due Bruce White for re-erecting dozens of fallen gravestones over the past autumn.** There are still many more to do, and this undertaking will be continued in 2016. Thanks are also in store for Steve Harms, a fellow Cemetery Trustee for so capably overseeing the layout and marking out of numerous new gravesites in the Leavitt Cemetery.

The Cemetery Trustees minutes, meeting schedules, pertinent statutes, Ordinances, and contact information are always available on the Town Website on the Cemetery page at [www.Fremont.nh.gov](http://www.Fremont.nh.gov).

The Town Cemeteries are closed for burials annually between December 15 and April 1 due to the ground freeze.

To purchase a cemetery lot, you should speak with the Selectmen's Office or a Cemetery Trustee for payment and deed information.

Please feel free to contact the Cemetery Trustees if you should have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Fremont Cemetery Trustees

Steven Harms  
Matthew E. Thomas  
Richard Pinder

*"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."*  
~ [Mahatma Gandhi](#)