

## **Report of the Fremont Cemetery Trustees**

2022 has come and gone already. Where do the years go?? The Cemetery Trustees have worked diligently to address the needs and concerns of Fremont's various cemeteries to make sure they are kept up and maintained in a respectful, neat, efficient and orderly manner. During the past year we have had several trees cut and removed from the west wall of the Village Cemetery thus taking pressure off the granite wall that divides the cemetery from the neighboring abutter. Several of these trees posed a threat of falling and damaging nearby gravestones, and causing harm to the existing cemetery wall.

We advertised to hire a contractor to mow and care for our cemeteries after having open positions posted for months. Fremont was one of the last towns in the area to have to resort to hiring professional landscapers – so we did our best to hold down mowing and clean-up costs longer than almost any town around. Thank you to Lloyd Bishop for his years of dedication, we hope you enjoy retirement. We hired a local landscaper to mow and clean up the three major cemeteries around town. They removed fallen leaves, branches, and debris in addition to mowing the cemeteries throughout the spring, summer, and early autumn. They also did our two annual clean-ups. They have done a WONDERFUL job and have been extremely reliable and efficient.

We also addressed another major project concerning the removal and replacement of the north wall on the Leavitt Cemetery. The 133-foot-long wall was removed this past autumn and a new concrete block wall will be erected in its place come spring. The old wall was deteriorating and crumbling, thus causing serious problems for both the cemetery and private land abutters. Back in 1927 this wall was cemented over and through the years the cement was breaking off and crumbling all over the place causing damage to cemetery mowers and to the adjoining property. Many thanks go to Cemetery Sexton, Shawn Perrault, along with Tom Paoletta, who started helping our Sexton this year, for their work on this project. A special thank you to our neighbors the Martins for all their hard work taking the existing wall down this fall and working closely with the Sexton to make this project move forward.

The Cemetery Trustees also went through all town cemeteries in early May to make sure that ALL known war veterans buried within them had a suitable flag staff placed on their graves. Military Records were researched and updated by Town Historian Matthew Thomas along with the kind assistance of Gerry Tilley and Joseph & Janette Sequino, all three being members of the Wreaths Across America Committee. Every effort was made to make sure no veteran was forgotten.

Improvements were also made to the Village Cemetery shed such as fixing the roof and replacing the entrance door ramp. We thank Aaron Chinn for his help with the ramp.

A new section of chain link fencing was installed at the rear of Leavitt Cemetery after the property line was staked. The fence money was encumbered from 2021 and done in the spring of 2022.

We also thank Steve and Ben Carder for their dedication through the years of mowing and cleaning up the Isaac Brown-Pettengill Cemetery.

We had two new Cemetery Trustees come on board this year, both as write-ins. Thank you Steve Tomasz & Mary Jo Holmes for offering your services and expertise by accepting the two open positions.



The Cemetery Trustees held monthly meetings between April and November this year. We met on the second Tuesday of most months 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.

**Special Thanks to Shawn Perreault, our Cemetery Sexton** who continues to perform her duties as efficiently and competently as ever! She oversees all burials in town cemeteries, and continues to research, upgrade, and improve the accuracy on our Village and Leavitt Cemetery Lot Maps. We appreciate her hard work and 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. **Again, many thanks Shawn!**

It goes without saying, that the Cemetery Trustees are especially grateful and appreciative of the support, advice, and input that we receive from the Select Board, Town Administrator Heidi Carlson, and various townspeople who work hard to achieve our vital goals. The Cemetery Trustees are determined to work hard to resolve all essential cemetery-related issues in as frugal, cost-effective, and far-sighted manner as is humanly possible. This year we proposed and approved a significant reduction with the Cemetery budget by \$5,000 – a first with this budget in many years -- thanks to resolving several cemetery problems that have finally been addressed after years of trying to catch-up.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew E. Thomas, Chairman  
Mary Jo Holmes  
Steve Tomasz

Photo courtesy of Shawn Perreault