

Tuftonboro Cemetery Trustees
Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2023

The meeting was promptly called to order at 5:00 PM at the Tuftonboro Town Offices.
In attendance: trustee Susan Weeks (chairperson), trustee Carol Bush, trustee Alana Albee, volunteer sexton Guy Pike, and members of the public – Mr. and Mrs. Martin Garabedian and Lloyd Wood.

The minutes of the May 2nd, 2023 meeting were read and approved.

Sue Weeks asked for public input from the Garabedians of 279 Mountain Road and Lloyd Wood of Shirley Way regarding the Moses Thompson cemetery on Mountain Road. Lloyd offered to pay to remove trees and build a stone wall or fence. In exchange, he will receive a letter from the town acknowledging his monetary gift. Sue will check to see if this cemetery has been officially abandoned so that the trustees can convey plots if deemed feasible. The trustees will visit the site at 1:00 PM on June 12th. It may also be possible to enlarge this cemetery with an easement and Planning Board approval.

After communicating with Attorney Mark Puffer, Sue feels that the trustees should redo our rules and regulations and specifically address abandoned cemeteries since they are treated differently from the Town House cemetery. Alana offered to draft a revision. Alana also offered to draft revised signage to be posted at the Town House cemetery gates. Some of the rules are not being followed, and Sue recently removed glass and ceramic decorations and other items that impede cemetery maintenance.

Sue announced that Roberta French will retype our printed list of past plot sales in the Town House cemetery since they could not be found on the town computer. This compilation is through 2017. Roberta is also available to add recent sales, bringing the list up to date which will be most helpful.

The trustees discussed making a list of signs needing repair or replacement at our old cemeteries. Matt Young of the Melvin Village Marina has offered to donate the needed signs. Alana recently visited the Dame and Pleasant Mountain cemeteries, noting that both signs at the Dame cemetery need replacing and that there is no sign at the Pleasant Mountain cemetery.

The headstone cleaning and repair workshop with Jessica Davis at the Dow family cemetery on Mountain Road was very successful with about 20 people attending. Nearby resident Dwight Pennell helped with parking and water supply. Jessica will be working on headstone repairs at several of our cemeteries this summer including the Town House cemetery, Dame cemetery, the Hoyt-Ladd-Remick cemetery and the Whitehouse cemetery. Sue felt that we should also ask for the public to help with a workday on Saturday, September 9th (rain date September 10th) at 10 AM at the Town House cemetery to remove turf that is growing over and obscuring many of the flat stones. Alana offered to submit a short article with this request along with some current cemetery news to the Tuftonboro Times.

Sue will be calling Andy Carpenter to ask for a quote to remove trees at the Whitney Glidden cemetery on County Road.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM. The next meeting of the cemetery trustees will be Wednesday, July 5th, 2023 at 5:00 PM at the Tuftonboro Town Offices. Public attendance and input are encouraged.

Submitted by Carol Bush, Secretary, Tuftonboro Cemetery Trustees

