

Acworth Cemetery Trustees Minutes, November 21, 2024

Present: Trustees Claudia Istel, Lillie LeBlanc and Helen Frink. Guests Alison Ferrell, Lindley Hanson, and Ken Gagnon.

Minutes of our October 17th meeting were approved.

Invoices approved for payment and signed:

Mountainside Mowing invoice, Nov. 15, 2024, \$3,960. Cost is now \$60/hour. This includes work in the Batchelder-Nye cemetery and leaf cleanup.

Keene Monument Invoice, \$250: one set of cornerstones for the Balla lots. A second invoice for \$500 for cornerstones for Locke (Lot A-24 south half) and (Alexandra) Rudin (lot A 24 north half) was not signed. Keene Monument found there were already cornerstones on the Rudin lot.

Russell Tree Service cutting trees in northeast corner: \$2,450

Sexton and Trustees: Ken Gagnon has been offered the sexton position at \$3,000. Alison Ferrell expressed interest in becoming a trustee; election occurs at March town meeting. Helen Frink will send everyone the Handbook that describes responsibilities of cemetery trustees and sexton.

Forensic Geology: Lindley Hanson described a future project working with Salem State University students in Acworth cemeteries. The non-invasive process could detect the presence of burials in the Batchelder-Nye cemetery and the Hill Road cemetery. Trustees voted to allow this project that would take place in late May and early June next year. Townspeople will be informed in advance about any activity in our cemeteries.

Burials: Cremains for Kathleen Whitcomb will be interred by family members on November 24th in the Julius Christie lot C-10.

Northeast corner: Helen Frink met with the Selectboard on November 18th. The Highway Department was authorized to pull out stumps and rough out the road around this section; costs will be part of the Highway Department budget. Surveyors Randall Rhoades and Travis Royce may be able to help mark out lots on the knoll.

Size of cemetery lots: Helen Frink gathered information from 6 nearby towns about lot sizes and prices. Our prices are average compared to other towns, but their lot sizes are 4' by 10' on average for a single full-body burial. Trustees can decide whether Acworth lots sold in the future should be 4' by 10' to make better use of our available space.

Record Keeping: The Selectboard meeting included a discussion of how best to keep cemetery records, which are public information. Our most up to date cemetery map can be posted on the town website after this year's updates are complete. No decision was made about posting information in our Excel spreadsheet records, which show purchaser, birth and death dates of the deceased, and burial dates.

Monument Repair: the 2024 cemetery budget shows a balance of \$5,074 remaining funds, some of which can be used for monument repair. Trustees will look for broken monuments in the Hill Road cemetery to provide a list of necessary work to the Keene Monument Company.

Budget Summary

	2024 Budget	Spent	Remaining Funds	2025 Draft Budget
Tree Work	\$3,500	\$4,250	-\$750	\$3,000
Monument repair	\$1,500	\$956 move Bascom monument	\$544	\$2,000
Lawn care	\$16,500	\$10,170	\$6,330	\$15,500
Miscellaneous	\$250		\$250	
Survey work	\$500		\$500	
Corner markers	\$450 (cost is now \$300/set)	\$2250 (9 sets @ \$250/set)	-\$1,800 (Keene Monument owes one set \$250 corner markers)	\$2,500
Subtotals	\$22,700	\$17,626	\$5,074	\$23,000
	Sexton's stipend			\$3,000
Total to be raised from taxes	\$22,700 + Sexton's Stipend \$3,000.			

A decision about meeting December 19th will be made via email.

Cemetery Trustees:

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Claudia Istel: 603-338-8262, cistel79@gmail.com

Lillie LeBlanc, 603-313-2268, lillie.leblanc1@icloud.com

DRAFT CEMETERY BUDGET FOR 2025

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