Cemetery Committee

The Cemetery Committee makes recommendations to the Board for properly caring for veterans’ graves in town, use of dedicated cemetery funds and Town taxes to meet the Towns obligations in maintaining the cemeteries that fall under town responsibility. This includes all cemeteries in Town except the Whitefield Cemetery and St. Denis cemeteries.

This year we cleared brush from two small cemeteries, Moody on North Hunts Meadow Road and Woodman off of Petticoat Lane. Woodman has a veteran’s grave from the Revolutionary War. The Lion Club’s Leos (students from Erskine Academy) helped at the Moody cemetery under the guidance of Barry Tibbetts and Tony Marple. Libby Harmon, Tony Marple and I worked on the Woodman cemetery. This work is ongoing as trees and brush continue to grow every year…

A list of all the known veterans buried in town has been compiled. I am sure there are probably more that have not been identified. Next summer after Memorial Day, visit some of the cemeteries and note where flags fly marking their graves. Perhaps say a prayer or give thanks for their service and sacrifice. Let us know if we have missed any graves that need recognition.

The William Turner Trust fund for the care of the Coopers Mills Cemetery was used this year for two projects as well as mowing at that cemetery. Resident metal artist Eric Paetow designed and fabricated a sign for the using the letters that came off the vault when it was removed. Additionally, Joe Ferannini of Gravestone Works came this August and worked for five very long days. He repaired gravestones and taught volunteers how to clean and straighten stones. Joe is a historian as well and passed on a wealth of knowledge about cemeteries, their care, helped solve riddles about some of the graves and made suggestions for the future. Six members of Maine Old Cemetery Association trained in gravestone restoration helped out over the week as well. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped.

Many of the small cemeteries in town have gravestones that need repair but there are no funds for this work. These cemeteries hold the history and ancestors of our town. We hope to find the money needed to properly care for these grave as well.

This year we are also working on updating the Whitefield Cemetery Ordinance.

The Cemetery Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6 pm at the Central Fire Station. Feel free to join us.

Committee Members:

Charlene Donahue

Libby Harmon

Robin Huntley

Jane McMorrow

Barry Tibbetts

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlene Donahue