

2022 Annual President's Report to Trustees

April 20th, 2022

Many of you may not have known Phil Chase. Phil was a long time Trustee of the Cumberland Cemetery Association and died in 2021. Phil resigned from the Association around 1994 and recommended me as a Trustee to replace him....blame Phil.

Peter McKenney continues to be a great mentor to Valerie. Peter continues to be a tremendous resource.

The Association regained its tax exempt status in 2021.

The 2021 special projects included road repair and alignment in Methodist and Foreside. The road in Foreside was extended and a turn-around/parking area was added. The fences on both sides of Foreside were extended about 100 feet.

The proposed special projects for 2022 includes upgrading the roads in Universalist and Farris. Future special projects should include work on iron fences and gates in Foreside and Congregational. We are at a point where special projects can be deferred if funding becomes an issue.

We are seeing a huge increase in D. C. Stilkey's proposed maintenance and Superintendant's fees. I will work with Bill Shane to put out an RFQ for 2023 maintenance....it seems like the prudent thing to do. Even with operating cost rising I see no reason to increase cemetery fees at this time. With the increased sales and burials we are currently seeing, and current level of Town support, we'll be fine.

The Association continues to be in good financial shape as will be seen in Valerie's report.

I am proposing to reinstate the VP position. Brian Jensen has agreed to accept the position. Thanks, Brian. Money has been included in the 2022 budget to purchase a laptop computer for Brian's use. The Association currently has two laptops...only one will support Pontem.

Abbey Lombard at the Town office continues to do a good job keeping sales and burial information up to date in the Pontem system. She continues to prepare the deeds and collects the sales proceeds from the customers. Thanks, Abbey.

Bill Shane is currently looking into the possibility of widening the sidewalk, installing granite curbing, and removing the (ugly) chain fencing at Congregational. It will be a great enhancement for both the cemetery and pedestrians.

I've asked Bill to keep the woods behind Moss Side bush hogged on an annual basis. The woods and cemetery are on many people's walking route.

Due to lack of rain, again last year, the grass within the cemeteries wasn't as attractive as I'd like to see.

I am again proposing to award the maintenance and superintendant duties to D. C. Stilkey.

Looking Back:

When I became President in 2000 the Association was struggling to pay to mow the grass. We had to ask our contractor to wait until July 1st when the Town paid its \$3000 annual contribution to get his first payment of the year. A lot has happened since then.

The cemeteries were in terrible shape. Records and mapping were disastrous. Moss Side had become overgrown with underbrush. All of the cemeteries had hazardous trees. Grass wasn't be mowed at the frequency it should have been. We had to ask the Town to buy the Veteran flags and replace the flag at Moss Side. We had to ask the Town to buy loam for turf repair. This was nobody's fault....the Association was under funded. Our priorities were safety, aesthetics, computerizing the records, and increase funding.

The Association was on the verge of collapse. The present Town manager and Council came to our aid and increased funding and services. The Town crews removed trees and brush at Moss Side, then loamed and seeded. The Town hired a tree crew to prune unsafe trees in Congregational. The Town purchased Veteran flag holders to bring us into compliance.

The Association was then in position to start helping ourselves. Over the past 22 years we have advanced light years. Much of the thanks belong to our past Treasurer, Peter McKenney.

Among the accomplishments are (in no particular order):

1. Moving from a membership organization to a self perpetuating board.
2. Restructuring our investment and spending policies.
3. Oversaw the separation of Chebeague Island cemetery and CCA.
4. Forming an Investment Committee.
5. Computerizing the records.
6. Making records available on the Town's web site.
7. Generating and storing deed information electronically.
8. Creating electronic maps.
9. Maintain an updated YTD reconciliation sheet of sales, burials and transfers by Stilkey and the Association. Share frequently with Abbey at Town office.
10. Share burial information with findagrave.com.
11. Re-writing the Rules and Regulations.
12. Introduced administration fees.
13. Increased price for interment rights.
14. Receive a fair annual contribution from the Town.
15. Completed ground survey of cemeteries.
16. Maintaining cemeteries from 'side to side'.
17. Perform much turf restoration...a never ending concern.
18. Removing many hazardous trees.
19. Replacing deteriorated fences and extended as needed.
20. Seen sales increase.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert L. Storey

President, CCA