

CEMETERY COMMITTEE



From left: Paul Cooke, Gina Nasson, K.C. Winslow, Chair; Andrea Solomon, Carol Harney

Concord cemeteries provide not only a place of burial for current and former residents of Concord but a place for family, friends, tourists and historians to remember, reflect upon and learn from our predecessors. Caring for and maintaining these grounds is of utmost importance and many efforts were made this year to improve the general appearance as well as provide better access for all who visit.

Mowing and clean up services were contracted out to a private company for the first year of a three-year contract. In addition, a number of trees were removed from Sleepy Hollow Cemetery by the Ground's Division tree crew. Some of the removals were due to storm damage and many were large hemlocks which were diseased. Further maintenance and removal will be necessary to prevent disease spread and additional tree loss.

Due to an ongoing concern regarding dog walkers not picking up after their dogs, a good portion of the first half of 2014 was dedicated to improving this situation. An attempt was made at Town Meeting to revise Article 59, the dog by-law and not allow dogs on the Town cemetery-owned property. The motion met a lot of opposition and the meeting ruled to take no action at this time.

An ongoing effort to maintain the many stone walls continued in 2014. The stone wall in front of the Melvin Memorial was repaired with future plans in place to repair the wall running along Upland Avenue.

The Veterans Day ceremony was once again held at Sleepy Hollow honoring all those interred here as well as Concord's service members who never returned.

The Cemetery Staff and Committee had an intriguing surprise in late 2014. During regular maintenance our staff made a timely discovery of an unknown tomb. Coincidentally, a letter was received within a short time of the discovery. The letter was from a direct descendant of General James Colburn describing the location and contents of the Colburn tomb on the Old Hill. The documentation confirmed the recent discovery of the unknown tomb. With permission from the Committee, the staff brought the family to the tomb on the Old Hill. After they entered the tomb, observations confirmed what the evidence suggested, that the remains were in fact General James Colburn and his Daughter-in-law. The tomb opening had been exposed by erosion; after the investigation of the tomb by the Coburn Family and Cemetery Staff, the family placed flowers and a card at the site. The family paid a mason to properly close up the tomb.

Statistics

During 2014, there were 93 interments at Sleepy Hollow, 39 full burials and 54 cremations. Of the interments, 45 were Concord residents. Lot sales for the year totaled 53, with 10 of these being sold to eligible former Town residents.



Concord's Annual Veterans Day and Flag Retirement Tribute at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery