

Hope Cemetery & Woods

Winter 2020 Newsletter

Volume VI, Issue 1

From The Presidents of the Boards...

With the successful campaign to preserve Hope Woods behind us and the Universally Accessible Trail project underway, our focus has turned towards Hope Cemetery's future. At the top of the Cemetery's to-do list was a critical examination of the condition of our sentinel trees. This resulted in the hiring of a company this past fall to take measures to protect the giant ash, hemlock, and beech trees from disease and invasive insects.

Our Board has identified and targeted significant capital projects. With help from the Friends Group, a new dump truck has replaced the well-used 37-year-old truck. A number of the Cemetery roads are scheduled for regrading.

The year 2020 is significant in Kennebunk's history. Not only is it the 200th anniversary of the establishment of Maine as a state distinct from Massachusetts (March 15, 1820), but June 15 is the 200th anniversary of Kennebunk's separation from Wells and establishment as a town. The town will be celebrating the bicentennial on Wednesday, June 24 and Saturday, June 27. As part of the celebration, we will mark gravestones of people who died in 1820 and/or were alive during 1820 and will share stories about some of the people interred. The Boards are also considering planting an American Elm to celebrate the Bicentennial. Keep an eye on our Facebook page (Friends of Hope Cemetery and Woods) for further information.

Hope Cemetery dates back to 1790, when it was established as Low's Burying Ground. Do any of our readers have 5th great-grandparents in the Cemetery? Let us know.

As always, we welcome your questions and input.

George C. Harrington, President, Friends of Hope Cemetery & Woods

Betsy T. Stevens, President, Hope Cemetery Corporation

Hope Cemetery Corporation, Barnard Lane, PO Box 211, Kennebunk, ME 04043

Email: hopecemetery@yahoo.com

Phone: 207-985-7846

Website: www.hopecemeterykennebunk.com

Superintendent: Thomas Litchfield

Board of Directors:

Betsy T. Stevens, President George C. Harrington, Vice President Gail Preble, Secretary Tom Dobens, Treasurer
Pam Eagleson, Tom Kasprzak, Betsy MacDonald, Steve Mahler, Cheryl Price

Hope Cemetery & Woods, PO Box 1550, Kennebunk, ME 04043

Email: friendsofhow@gmail.com

Website: www.hopecemeterykennebunk.com

Board of Directors:

George C. Harrington, President Betsy T. Stevens, Vice President Cheryl Price, Secretary Tom Dobens, Treasurer
Pam Eagleson, Tom Kasprzak, Betsy MacDonald, Steve Mahler, Gail Preble

Cemetery Maintenance and Improvements

Repair and maintenance of sections of the road in the cemetery began in Fall 2019 and will continue this year. A multi-year, comprehensive tree maintenance plan has also been implemented and necessary pruning and cabling will continue this year.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to extensive damage over the years to the water lines in the cemetery, and the cost to replace them, water for plantings will now only be available at the Office/Garage spigot and at a large water tank placed in the Cemetery out towards the Hillside area.

Kennebunk Bicentennial Celebration Will Include Hope Cemetery

The Town of Kennebunk will celebrate its 200th birthday in June, and Hope Cemetery will be involved in the activities occurring in the Upper Square along with the Brick Store Museum, Kennebunk Free Library, and the Unitarian Universalist Church.



Also, a Bicentennial Quilt is being created which will include a square created by Board of Directors member Pamela Stone Eagleson. “For this Bicentennial Quilt I chose to commemorate Hope Cemetery, one of the most visible reminders of Kennebunk’s rich history. Within the 25 acre cemetery is found the history of Kennebunk as told through the lives of the people who lived it. Depicted in this quilt block is a tombstone with a statue of the Virtue of Hope. Hope is one of three theological virtues. She is almost always seen with an anchor, most appropriate for a community so tied to the sea.”

Rules and Regulations Reminder

Please remember that solar lights are not allowed in Hope Cemetery (or any other type of illumination or lighting). Copies of the Rules & Regulations are available in a box on the side of the Cemetery Office building, from the Cemetery Superintendent, or on the Services page of our website: hopecemeterykennebunk.com.

Did You Know...

Crosses were among the earliest symbols on gravestones. On Hannah Little's tombstone a right hand is holding a cross. Her epithet reads *Faithful until death*.

Hannah was born in Kennebunk to David and Sarah Little. She never married, lived in Massachusetts for many years and died in Cambridge on Aug 27, 1865.

She was buried in Hope Cemetery in the Little family plot. According to the plot card among those also buried in the plot are her parents and Rev. Daniel Little, the first minister for the First Congregational Parish.



Universally Accessible Trail Update



Work continues on the Universally Accessible Trail Project. The design has been finalized and necessary permits and paperwork are being completed.

A grant through the Recreational Trail Program of the Maine Trails Advisory Committee has been received to help cover expenses.

The map shows the location of the new trail in dark yellow. This image will also be posted on our website: hopecemeterykennebunk.com.

New Capital and Operating Funds to Benefit Hope Cemetery

Anonymous donors have made sizable donations to Friends of Hope Cemetery & Woods in order to create two new funds to specifically benefit Hope Cemetery. The Capital Improvement Fund will be used for projects such as the road improvement project, and the Cemetery Operations Fund will be available for cemetery maintenance needs not covered by the annual budget. Donors are welcome and encouraged to make a specified donation to one of these funds. Unspecified donations are applied where need is greatest.

Donations Received

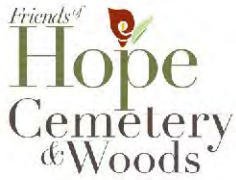
We offer our sincere thanks to the following generous donors for gifts received since the publication of our last newsletter:

- Bauman Family Foundation
- Paul Beach
- Christopher Bever
- Gillian Charbonneau
- George C. & Diantha C. Harrington
- Velma Hayes
- Robert G. Hinckley
- Elizabeth Hutz
- Frances A. Jack
- Andrea Jennison
- Ann P. McGurk
- Donna D. Noble

- Sheila O'Donnell
- Gwen Page
- Harriet Passerman
- Betty Smith
- Betsy T. Stevens
- Lou Ann Watson
- Charles P. Mitchell, Timothy J. Borland, & Ann Mitchell



We apologize for the omission of The Waldo Emerson Inn from our previous Capital Campaign Donor Listing.



PO Box 1550
Kennebunk, ME 04043

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

We Need YOU!

Volunteer

Friends of Hope Cemetery & Woods and Hope Cemetery Corporation are looking for new committee members (and for individuals interested in joining our Board of Directors). Committees include Communications, Stewardship, Finance, and Development & Planning. Committee descriptions can be found on our website: hopecemeterykennebunk.com by clicking on the "Volunteer" tab at the top of the page. We also welcome volunteers to serve as Trail Stewards.

If you are interested in volunteering with us in any of these roles, please email us at friendsofhcw@gmail.com, or call Betsy at 207-985-2627.

Donate

Friends of Hope Cemetery & Woods continues to seek support for ongoing maintenance of Hope Cemetery (such as road repairs and tree work) and improvements to Hope Woods (such as the universally accessible trail, interpretive signage, and kiosks at trail entrances). We're thankful for your ongoing enthusiasm and support!

Checks payable to Friends of Hope Cemetery & Woods may be mailed to:
PO Box 1550, Kennebunk, ME 04043

Or you may make a credit card donation via the Friends page on our website:
hopecemeterykennebunk.com