
Cemeteries

To: Dennis J. Pavlicek, Town Administrator

From : Mary P. Bachelder, Cemetery Trustee, Chair

Subject : Master Plan Update

Date: May 13, 2006

Newbury Cemeteries

Newbury, NH cemeteries are governed by a 3-member elected board who serve alternative terms of three years. There are 11 cemeteries under our jurisdiction with a land and monument and fence valuation of approximately \$6-7 million dollars. Issues that have arisen in the past ten years concerning boundary and access points appear to be resolved.

The cemeteries vary in size from several acres to burial grounds several square feet in dimension. Most cemeteries date back to the early years of the 19th century for their origins. Several were expanded in the 1960's (Chandler, Lakeside, Marshall and South Newbury). In 1998 the Town took over the care of several family burial grounds (Gillingham, Simons and Twiss). Older cemeteries reached their capacity and are now closed to development (Baker Hill, Bean, and Bly Hill).

Our new and largest cemetery, the Booth Sherman was officially opened in 2002. The Booth Sherman Cemetery will have a capacity of 1700 plots in VI Sections. Further space is available for possible construction of a columbarium when the need arises.

To summarize current capacity and availability of sites for burials: plots/lots are available in Lakeside (remains only -35 sites) , Marshall (family plots 15x9-25 sites), and the Booth Sherman (all sizes- 55 sites remain of those laid out in 2002). Cremain sites will be available in the Felton section of the Marshall once plots have been laid out and the road turnaround is completed.

Future Needs

Future needs are always a concern for the Trustees and hinge very much on our population growth which is considerable at the present time. While we appear to be in a surplus situation now, this could accelerate rapidly and become a cause for concern and great expense in future years. Ponder for a moment the fact that the four cemeteries that were expanded in the 1960's are now almost at capacity. Keep in mind however the distinction between the fact that all plots are sold and that all people are buried as to the lifetime of a cemetery. Our view would be that the Town should always keep an eye out for future land if such becomes available as a gift, tax write-off or other means. Land is not getting any cheaper or more abundant.

