

Town of Kingston, New Hampshire
Plains Cemetery Celebration Steering Committee
Public Meeting
October 4, 2023

Members Present:

Ernie Landry, Heritage Commission
Melissa Mannon, Kingston Community Library
Virginia Morse, Historic District Commission
Jef Flanders, McDougall, Historic Museum Committee
Brad Maxwell, Trustees of the Trust funds
Phil Coombs, Public Works director

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM

The discussion revolved around possible activities to be conducted in preparation for, and celebration of, the 300th Anniversary of the Plains Cemetery in 2025.

Items included the following:

Rehabilitation of the cemetery through cleaning of the headstones and resetting those smaller stones that are leaning. This will be conducted by volunteers. Resetting of larger, more difficult stones should be accomplished by the DPW staff or a conservator. Explore the possibility of tree and vegetation management by either in-house or contracted resources. (Trustees of the Trust Funds, DPW, Heritage Commission).

Collection of data regarding the gravesites as part of the rehabilitation process and using that data to populate the Past Perfect database at the Museum and the Cemetery Find database maintained by the DPW. (Volunteers, Museum). Research what data is typically placed in similar national databases (Michele Cole).

Potential development of QR (Quick Reader) codes that could be mounted near gravesites of significant interest to allow visitors to obtain information on a self-guided tour. (DPW Director)

Research potential grants for programs and promotional activities, etc. (Melissa) and cemetery rehabilitation, including Moose Plate, LCHIP, other (Ernie).

Potential events:

- Reenactors
- Library exhibits – photos of significant headstones, Revolutionary War veteran stones, stones with interesting iconography, etc.
- Talk by Melissa regarding iconography (in conjunction with a display)

- Research possibilities of other presentations (Museum, Library, HC, HDC)
- Exhibits of photos of gravestones before and after cleaning
- Lecture about the cemetery in 2024 –

Promotional activities could include:

- Social Media
- Newspaper Articles
- Brochures – informational, self-guided walking tours, etc.

Other possible participants –

- Veterans Organization
- Society of the Sons of the American revolution
- Daughters of the American Revolution
- NH Society of the Cincinnati
- Schools

Next meeting – To be determined

Submitted: Ernest Landry

Disclaimer: These minutes will be reviewed and approved (with or without amendments) at the next Steering Committee meeting. Any amendments made, may be found in the minutes of the subsequent meeting in which the amendments were made.