

City of Dover

CEMETERY BOARD - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Special Meeting
Meeting Location: Pine Hill Cemetery – *145 Court Street, Dover, NH 03820
Meeting Date: **Tuesday, May 17, 2022**
Meeting Time: **7:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE –

MEMBERS PRESENT: Martha Haley – Chair; Rob Marggraf – Vice Chair, Susan Kelsch – Secretary; Grover Tasker, Belinda Labourdette Alt. Members

MEMBERS ABSENT: (excused) Cathy Beaudoin, Roderick Blake – Alt. Member

STAFF PRESENT: Sharon Sirois – Facilities, Grounds & Cemetery Superintendent;

Members of the public: Guy Eaton, representing the Daughters of the American Revolution

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – After brief discussion, we agreed that this meeting would be limited only to the discuss the proposed First Settler's Sign, which is being donated to the City of Dover by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

3. Status of Sign for Roberts Cemetery (a.k.a. First Settlers)

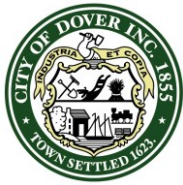
- a. This project was started in 2018 by Joanne Eaton, a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), as a gift to the city of Dover. However, she has now passed away and the impetus for action has fallen to her husband and other members of DAR. Tonight, her husband, Guy Eaton, is with us to represent the DAR.
- b. The proposed verbiage for the sign is as follows:

First Settlers Burying Ground
Established C. 1693
"Thy Remembrance Shall Endure Into All Generations"
Psalms 102

This burial ground is the final resting place of Dover's first settlers and many early prominent citizens. Most of the graves are unmarked. Burials began here in the early 17th century and continued for over 300 years.

Also known as Roberts Cemetery, this graveyard was established for the original settlers by Thomas Roberts from a parcel of his land. Thomas Roberts became governor and was the last chief magistrate of the Dover Colony before it came under the rule of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1642.

Marker placed by the Margery Sullivan Chapter
National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Dedicated in 2022 to the memory of



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Joanne Nutter Eaton whose ancestor is buried here
Elder Hatevil Nutter (1603-1675)

Use this QR code to access a list of those buried here
A more detailed description is available on the Dover Public Library Website.
<<Q code>>

- c. Kelsch requested that the verbiage in the explanation of the Roberts cemetery be changed to note that this is the final resting place of the first “European” settlers, as we discussed in our last Cemetery Board meeting. She objects to the wording on this sign, in consideration of the American Indian peoples who were already living in this area when the cemetery started. The DAR national organization has declined to make that change.
- d. We noted that the full description of who is buried in this cemetery will be held on the Public Library’s Website, accessible via the QR code, so this sign is not meant to be a comprehensive description.
- e. After brief discussion, we voted on the verbiage of the sign, and the vote was 4 in favor and 1 opposed (Kelsch). Kelsch’s objection will be noted in the Minutes.
- f. Next Sirois will report to the City Council, which will have the ultimate decision to accept the sign and its verbiage.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Labourdette made a motion to adjourn at 7:16 PM

Second: Margraff seconded the motion

Vote: U/A