

Board Members, Officers, Volunteers

- It is with great sadness that we say that our Board President, David Smith, passed away January 5, 2020. His passing was a great loss to his family, friends and to the Danbury Cemetery Association. His knowledge of history and the grounds was tremendous. The many hours of work he gave to Wooster Cemetery will not be forgotten.
- Board of Director candidates up for 3-year term: Diane Hnat, Gary Boughton, Brendan Sniffin & Marybeth Hamilton.
- As always, we welcome new DCA volunteers to the Board. Call the office 203-748-8529 if you have an interest in serving on the Board or volunteer in any capacity.

Grounds Improvement:

- Maintenance at the office: The front door repaired to minimize jamming due to humidity changes, electrical upgrade of outlets and office lighting. Some minor repairs have also been made to the office bathroom.
- The Cremation Garden was improved with fencing built by David Smith and painted by students from Western CT State University. Woodchips have also been added, as well as pruning and updating the plants. WCSU students also transplanted pine trees from the grounds onto 2 slopes that are too steep for burials. Bill Hamilton advised which ones were fit for transplanting. Both projects were overseen by David Smith.
- Thanks to the many hours and weeks of volunteering from Bill Hamilton that saved a lot of money cleaning up the damage from Tropical Storm Isaias; we had at least 12 trees downed and/or broken—much chipping & chain sawing of logs etc. so it would keep cost down on damage done. Bill also re-painted the speed bump and arrows in front of office, and cleaned up the gardens at both entrances.
- Maintenance Building—installing smoke alarm/fire alarms
- The entrance at the intersection of Hospital and Tamarack Avenue has been closed permanently with the placement of 5 huge stones, relocated from other areas of the grounds. The pillars at that entrance were originally at the main entrance and have been damaged numerous times by cars and trucks. Each repair cost over \$1000 when the party responsible for the damage could not be found. Plans to re-install them at the entrance on Tamarack Avenue have been discussed.
- Thank you to Gary Boughton and Ed Siergiej for fixing the roof on the Old Receiving Vault (circa 1854). A storm in July 2020 resulted in a branch piercing the roof. The vault is used by the Friends of Danbury Cemeteries to store supplies for their gravestone repair and conservation projects in several Danbury cemeteries. But, as with any project, one thing leads to another. The original door has been repaired, painted and re-installed. Further work on restoring and painting the trim is still in progress. Ed's daughter, Julie, has been advising them on proper color schemes for a Victorian Era building.
- We were able to pave some roads this year that have been notorious for becoming huge mud traps and/or puddles every time it rains and in winter. These are the perimeter road along Section 2 and roads intersecting with it, the road in the

middle of Section 22 near the pond, and the road along Section J in the old part of the cemetery.

- At long last, a permanent marker was placed for Albert Afraid of Hawk, a Lakota Sioux who died in Danbury in June, 1900 while travelling with the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show. His remains were repatriated to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota in 2012.

Website:

- Full updating of our website has been put on hold, but Nick, our webmaster, has come up with some beautiful ideas to make our site more informative.

Veterans:

- Placing of flags Memorial Day by the Danbury Council of Veterans and students from Broadview Middle School was cancelled due to the pandemic. A couple of volunteers placed flags in the 2 veterans' lots and, as always, we made flags available to those who wished to place one on their loved one's grave.

Landscaping:

- We've received many compliments to our landscaper, Berto's Landscaping. He and his crew do a fabulous job of keeping our almost 100 acres mowed throughout the year. In addition, Berto does fall and spring cleanup (leaves, branches) and keeps the roads clear in the winter.

Sexton Report:

- For the year ending March 31, 2020, we had 76 casket burials and 55 cremation burials. 2020 has brought a large increase in the number of burials. We normally average around 105 burials per year, and with 3 months to go in 2020, we have already reached that number.

Future Projects:

- Paving of more roads: as our finances allow, we plan on paving or putting down chipped asphalt on roads that become muddy or puddles after rain or when winter comes.
- Continued tree Maintenance: this is an ongoing process, as many of our trees are well in excess of 150 years old. Many of the pine trees were brought here in the 1850's from Maine.
- National Register of Historic Places application: This is a long, involved process. Volunteers are needed on this project.
- Columbarium niches for cremations: Grand View Mausoleum is almost sold out.
- Financial Report available at office. Please call ahead.