

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 **never** be forgotten.
- As always, we welcome new DCA volunteers to the Board. Call the office at 203-748-8529 if you have an interest in serving on the Board or volunteering in any capacity.

GROUNDS IMPROVEMENT:

- Maintenance at the office: The front door was repaired to minimize jamming due to humidity changes; electrical outlets and office lighting were upgraded. Minor repairs have been made to the office bathroom and the basement. Some racks were assembled for storage of files and moved to the holding building.
- The Cremation Scattering Garden was refreshed with woodchips plus plants were pruned and some new ones added. WCSU Day of Service was canceled in 2020; previously, students had transplanted pine tree from the grounds onto 2 slopes that are too steep for burials. Bill Hamilton had advised on the transplanting.
- 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 and chain sawing of logs etc. so it would keep cost down on damage done. Bill also repainted the speed bump and arrows in front of office.
- Maintenance Building: smoke alarm/fire alarms were installed.
- The entrance at the intersection of Hospital Avenue 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 had been damaged numerous times by cars and trucks. Bill Hamilton spent additional time and effort cleaning and polishing the signage and freshening the area with some light landscaping.
- 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 roads 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.
- Owners (old and new) are encouraged to read 'Rules & Regulations' especially as they apply to any proposal for adding, removing, changing any fixture, marker and/or grounds area in the cemetery.

VETERANS:

- Placing of flags Memorial Day by the Danbury Council of Veterans and students from Broadview Middle School was canceled 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 on the work of 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 clean-ups all over the property (leaves, weeds, branches) and keeps the roads clear in the winter.
- Ellsworth Avenue main entrance area has been re-landscaped to better manage shrub and plant growth where our stone marker is located. It should also help with deterring deer from eating plants in that area.

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, but 2020 saw our total at 135 through March 31, 2021.

FUTURE PROJECTS:

- More road repairs and upgrades are in-progress. Depending on the condition of current roadways in various selected sections and degree of improvements needed either tamped gravel, milling or paving with asphalt will be done throughout 2021.
- Previous Ellsworth Avenue entrance near Hospital Avenue will be refurbished due to recent damage.
- Additional clean-up and landscaping around the office is in-progress to enhance the view.
- 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. Six trees will be cut down this year as they are in poor condition and pose potential hazards.
- National Registry of Historic Places application: This is a long, involved process. Volunteers are needed on this project.
- Continuing efforts to map the cemetery have been spearheaded by Norma. This involves many hours of determining occupied and available plots and transferring information from many old handwritten cards.
- I-84 Danbury (CT DOT) Project to improve roadway from Exits 2-8 has formed a Project Action Committee. Bill Hamilton and Gary Boughton currently sit on the PAC as Wooster Cemetery is one of many organizations/properties that could contribute ideas. Project is long-term with completion slated for 2040.
- Columbarium niches for cremations at Grand View Mausoleum are almost sold out. Three new columbaria have been ordered and are scheduled to be installed during 2021. One will be located near the existing mausoleum and two will be near the Cremation Scattering Garden.
- Financial Report is available at the office. Please call ahead if you have an interest to review it.