

# Hope Cemetery & Woods

Winter 2023 Newsletter

Volume IX, Issue 1

## Our Endless Thanks to You, George!

George C. Harrington, who has been the President of Friends of Hope Cemetery & Woods since its establishment in 2016, has retired from the Board. Under George's leadership, \$1.4M was raised to preserve Hope Woods for future generations through a conservation easement placed in 2019, held by Kennebunk Land Trust. He then led the project to create an Accessible Trail in Hope Woods for all to enjoy, including those with mobility challenges. He is quick to point out that these projects required the work of many, but without George, these projects would not have been so successful.



It all began with a walk in the woods. George discovered old trails in Hope Woods and found them to be in terrible condition. When he reached out to Hope Cemetery expressing interest in making a donation to improve them, Hope Cemetery Board President Betsy Stevens invited him to take a walk in the woods with her. To quote Betsy, "By the end of the walk I had ignored all protocols for how to properly

recruit new board members and asked if George would join the Hope Cemetery Board of Directors. He said 'Yes,' and the rest is history!"

George states "The key to the success of these projects was the people involved." With participation from local business professionals, knowledgeable fundraising consultants, conservation specialists, town residents, and generous campaign donors, he felt fortunate to have the best resources available at the right time.



The resolution made by the Hope Cemetery Board of Directors sums it up well:

*The Board of Directors of Hope Cemetery Corporation extend their gratitude to George C. Harrington for his generosity of time and resources that were foremost in the creation of the Friends of Hope Cemetery & Woods and in the campaign to protect Hope Woods under a conservation easement. His leadership and dedication to the Board of Directors of Hope Cemetery and his service as President of the Friends of Hope Cemetery & Woods have been indispensable. With utmost appreciation, we thank you.*

### Hope Cemetery Corporation, Barnard Lane, PO Box 211, Kennebunk, ME 04043

Email: [hopecemetery@yahoo.com](mailto:hopecemetery@yahoo.com)

Phone: 207-985-7846

Website: [www.hopecemeterykennebunk.com](http://www.hopecemeterykennebunk.com)

Superintendent: Thomas Litchfield

#### Board of Directors:

Betsy T. Stevens, President Louise Spang, Vice President Gail Preble, Secretary Tom Dobens, Treasurer  
Gordon Collins, Pam Eagleson, Tom Kasprzak, Betsy MacDonald, Donna Nedeau-Slattery, Steve Sawyer

### Friends of Hope Cemetery & Woods, PO Box 1550, Kennebunk, ME 04043

Email: [friendsofhcw@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhcw@gmail.com)

Phone: 207-387-9100

Website: [www.hopecemeterykennebunk.com](http://www.hopecemeterykennebunk.com)

#### Board of Directors:

Gordon Collins, President Jay Bartner, Vice President Patsy Hemeon, Secretary Tom Dobens, Treasurer  
Pam Eagleson, Tom Kasprzak, Steve Mahler, Cheryl Price

## Hope Cemetery Tree Damage

The January storms caused heavy damage to trees throughout southern Maine, and Hope Cemetery was not spared. The annual preventive maintenance work was not completed due to wet warm conditions in December, and the storms caused many of our sentinel trees to lose large limbs. Cleanup and protecting the damaged trees will be top priorities this spring.



### WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

*The free website FIND a GRAVE was launched in 1988 by Jim Tipton and since 2013 has been owned by Ancestry.com. The site contains listings of cemeteries and graves from around the world. Anyone can search and add to its online database of cemetery tombstone records free of charge.*

*According to the FIND a GRAVE's website, individuals, genealogical societies, cemetery associations and other organizations may add interment listings. Such contributors must register as members to submit memorials or listings. The submitter becomes the manager of the listing but may transfer management. Only the current manager of a listing may edit it, although any member may use the site's features to send correction requests to the listing's manager. Managers may add links to other listings of deceased spouses, parents, and siblings for genealogical purposes.*

*Any member may also add photographs and notations to individual listings. Members may post requests for photos of a specific grave; these requests will be automatically sent to other members who have registered their location as being near that grave.*

*If someone wants to manage a relative's memorial they should refer to the REQUEST to MANAGE page of the FIND a GRAVE website. For memorials of a recently deceased person one should refer to the MEMORIAL FOR THOSE WHO ARE RECENTLY DECEASED page.*



## Our New President



Effective January 10, 2023, Gordon Collins officially took over the role of President of the Board of Directors of Friends of Hope Cemetery & Woods. Gordon had previously served as Vice President, and he has been involved with Friends of Hope Cemetery & Woods since its very beginning. As Executive Director of Kennebunk Land Trust when the Hope Woods Conservation Initiative began in 2018, he was involved with the fundraising and the establishment of the conservation easement placed on Hope Woods.

Gordon joined the Friends' Board after leaving KLT and has been a member of the Stewardship Committee, the tour guide for monthly nature walks in Hope Woods, and—most importantly—the Project Manager for our Accessible Trail Project, completed in Spring 2021. As a member of the Stewardship Committee, Gordon worked with fellow committee member Steve Mahler to implement placement of Emergency Response Locators throughout the Hope Woods trail system. These will allow emergency responders to quickly reach anyone who needs assistance in an emergency while on the trails.

Gordon says, "Friends of Cemetery & Woods has been innovative and inclusive in its management of this wonderful conserved property in the middle of our community of Kennebunk, Maine. I am honored to be chosen by the Board to lead Friends of Hope Cemetery & Woods into the future."

## Hope Woods Updates

Throughout the winter our trail stewards have been out in Hope Woods keeping trails clear of debris. They will perform their usual spring cleanup and continue their work in controlling invasive species.

Last December, strong winds during a storm knocked over the kiosk at the trail entrance. Within a day, volunteers had reinstalled it securely. This spring it will be reinforced to ensure this doesn't happen again.

Watch for a row of balsam trees to be planted in the meadow this spring. These trees have been generously donated by George C. and Diantha C. Harrington.

## Guided Walks Starting in May



Again this season, Maine Master Naturalist (and Board President) Gordon Collins will be leading monthly guided walks in Hope Woods:

Saturday, May 20th at 10:00

Sunday, June 18th at 1:00

Sunday, July 9th at 1:00

Saturday, August 19th at 10:00

Sunday, September 17th at 1:00

Saturday, October 14th at 10:00

Sunday, November 12th at 1:00



Sign up via email or phone:  
friendsofhw@gmail.com  
207-387-9100

PO Box 1550  
Kennebunk, ME 04043

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

---

### **Donations Received**

We offer our sincere thanks to the following generous donors for gifts received since the publication of our last newsletter:

James & Jacqueline Campbell  
Kate & Tom Chappell  
Bob & Ruth Clark  
Linda DeFelice  
David Doubleday  
Sheila Edmands  
Rhoda Frederick  
John Glover  
Heather & Brent Knapp  
Tien T. Le  
Stephen & Diane Mallon  
Fred & Paula Merkle  
John Noyes  
Jane Picket  
Alexander Purves

Betsy T. Stevens  
The Campbell-Wymans

Gifts were received in  
honor of:  
John & Cheryl Price



### **If you'd like to make a donation:**

Mail a check (payable to Friends of Hope Cemetery & Woods) to  
Friends of Hope Cemetery & Woods  
PO Box 1550  
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Or  
Donate by credit card on the Friends page of our website: [hopecemeterykennebunk.com](http://hopecemeterykennebunk.com)

*We greatly appreciate your support!*