

Etna Cemetery Association, Est. 1853

% Cindy Marquis, President

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Background:

The Etna Cemetery is located on Route 366 in the hamlet of Etna, NY. It is slightly over 1 acre in size with a potter's field to the rear and a lower gated entrance on the southwest end, facing the road and next to the entrance to the Finger Lakes Land Trust trail.

There are approximately 125 burial lots, most of which have large monuments on them.

Current situation:

The Etna Cemetery is currently being cared for by a Board of Directors consisting of 4 officers and 4 additional community members. The officers are President: Cindy Marquis; Vice-President Dan Taylor; Treasurer Jim Graney; and Secretary Casey Washburn. Other involved community members include Deb McGraw, Jen Sage, Julia Dawson and Mary Dart Blinn to name a few. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult for us to maintain given the condition of the property. We are currently working with Brendon Stanton at the Division of Cemeteries and have identified dangerous monuments in need of repair. On June 9, 2022, I (Cindy) met with Dean Clamcey of Clamcey's Monument Restoration to record and measure the base of the monuments that were approved by the Division of Cemeteries for repair. Another monument repair company, Hills Monuments have also been given the information for their bid. We should be receiving both bids shortly and the repairs should be completed either by late Fall 2022 or early Spring 2023. These repairs will be paid for by New York State.

Because our cemetery is so old; we have many graves that have collapsed and eroded soil making it difficult to maintain the grounds. The front tree line, behind the stone wall, consisting of six pin oaks, are in need of trimming and clearing out most of the dead branches. There are other large trees in the cemetery that also need trimming to make room for the overhead clearance that is needed for the monument repairs and to allow for safe mowing and burials.

The main entrance needs additional base materials added to make entering the cemetery easier as well.

Due to the lack of manpower and finances available to do the repairs and maintenance of the Etna Cemetery, we, the board, are requesting assistance from the Town of Dryden to help assist with the care and preservation of our cemetery.

Our current needs:

1) Top Soil

Top soil is needed to fill in the collapsed graves. There are 5 rows of graves in the front portion of the cemetery. By figuring each area needing soil in the first 2 rows and estimating an average depth of 6 inches of top soil being needed, we estimate needing 34 yards of topsoil for this project. Additionally, we would need grass seed and straw to cover the area. Additional topsoil will be needed in the future to fill 3 more rows of sunken graves.

2) Tree Trimming

In addition to the Pin Oaks described above, there are other trees in the cemetery with low hanging branches that should have those low branches removed for safety. There are also several tall trees in the back and to the south side of the cemetery that are leaning badly and could injure a person or destroy multiple graves should they fall. These should be removed.

3) Entrance repairs

Currently there is stone in the driveway though using highway millings could be a low cost solution for improving the entrance area of the cemetery.

Our Request:

We have not placed a dollar amount on these repairs because we are requesting materials and labor be provided by the Town of Dryden. This will allow the Etna Cemetery Board to continue working with the Division of Cemeteries to maintain the monuments, provide for their repairs, and also mow and trim the cemetery as needed.