

Groton Cemetery Association
499 Locke Road
Groton, NY 13073

Lee Shurtleff, President Sue Bennett, Vice President Karl Stamm
Jeff Cargian April Sheffler Michael Shurtleff Richard Slocum Kathy Belonsoff Art Webb

May 30, 2025

Dear Friends of the Groton Rural Cemetery,

On behalf of all the Trustees, we send our heartfelt gratitude for your generous contribution to the "GRC Helping Hands" appeal for 2024. As noted in our previous letter, we stated that as a Charter Member you would receive an annual update on improvements completed, and needs in the cemetery.

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our ground crew and a few gracious volunteers, Groton Rural Cemetery was well cared for throughout the year. They continue to keep on top of fallen limbs, spring and fall cleanup, repairing sunken markers, installing new foundations, as well as mowing and weed trimming. The goal is to continue repair on old and crumbling foundations in the older sections which are causing the large monuments to lean dangerously, or to fall. With the help of the village employees, downed trees are quickly removed. Our gratitude also goes out to the Groton American Legion which continues to annually purchase and replace flags on the graves of veterans.

As a result of your generous donations in 2024, we were able to cover many ongoing expenses in the cemetery. One expense included a portable cement mixer which attaches to the back of a pickup truck for \$1,652.19. This purchase was a huge benefit for a quicker completion of foundations for monuments. All labor was provided by cemetery workers and dedicated volunteers. As you know, minimum wage continues to increase each year resulting in payroll expense for two employees for \$17,171.00. Necessary parts for maintaining equipment cost \$1,022 (labor was volunteered). Gas alone was \$1,669. Annual insurance costs have increased \$1,000.00 from the previous year. Thankfully, our new Sexton (Sue Bennett with the help of her husband Joe), has volunteered her time at no cost. Dick Slocum has also been a faithful volunteer for many years. They have been a tremendous help to the cemetery, and their efforts are much appreciated.

Please continue your support of the Groton Rural Cemetery by making an annual contribution to our 2025 "GRC Helping Hands" appeal. With your help, the cemetery will continue to receive the attention it deserves to remain a welcome place of peace and comfort.

I am pleased to be able to continue to volunteer as the coordinator for the "GRC Helping Hands" appeal. Thank you for your support. Using the enclosed donation form, please make your check payable to **Groton Cemetery Association** and mail it to:

Groton Cemetery Association
PO Box 14
Groton, NY 13073

Sincerely Yours,

Kathy Watrous

Kathy Watrous, "GRC" Volunteer/Coordinator
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