

Vershire Cemetery Trustee Meeting
May 17, 2021, Vershire Town Center

The meeting came to order at 2:14. Present: Rita French , Eleanor Zue and Margaret (Peggy) Darrow

I. Updates.

Peggy reported that since our last meeting she had spoken to Jeremiah at Green Valley Memorials. He agreed to take another look at the restoration work that needs to be done in the South Vershire/Mountain Ash cemetery and if necessary, revise the estimate that his company did three years ago. He was to report to Peggy before today's meeting but has not done so. Peggy called him this morning and left a message, asking for an update. Rita would like to meet with him at the cemetery to ask about how to restore or stabilize one of the stones that has fallen over since Green Valley last looked at the cemetery. Peggy will follow up on this.

Peggy reported that she has spoken to Jacob Mayer about mowing the cemeteries again this year. Gene Craft has also hired him to mow for the town, so Jacob is on board once again.

Rita reported that she checked on the fencing material stored at her home. There is enough fencing--posts and boards--for about 180 feet of fence. We discussed in detail the project of fencing the South Vershire/Mountain Ash cemetery. We decided that we will limit the project at this point to fence extending from the lower left corner to the driveway, circa 32 feet, the gate, and from the drive way to the first tree, circa 40 feet, plus the enclosure around the Bedell graves at the back of the cemetery. We have more than enough material for this much fence, but not enough material to fence the entire length of the front of the cemetery. The price of boards has gone sky-high at the moment, so we will put off extending the fence until prices have returned to something more like normal.

Before the project can get underway we need to:

- 1) Determine how wide the gate needs to be;
- 2) Remove the pile of stones beside the driveway;
- 3) Have the big ash tree cut down. Also there are some other trees that need to be taken down.

Peggy will ask Gene if the road crew can remove the pile of stones.

Rita has called Broadway and Cilley, the funeral home in Chelsea to ask about the width of the gate and will follow up on this.

Rita will ask Chippers, a company we have hired before to remove trees and brush, if they can do the tree removal.

Rita will also talk to Chip Powers who, she believes, has a post-hole digger, to see if he will dig post holes for the fence.

We still need to find someone to build the fence and gate.

Eleanor reported that she has made some notes for an informational handout about Green Burials that the Town Office can have available to give to anyone who is interested in this. She will put together this handout. A recent story in the *Valley News* reported that Lebanon NH has been discussing setting aside a portion of their cemeteries for green burials, but have tabled the matter. At this time we are not contemplating creating a public green burial site in Vershire.

II. Memorial Day

Gene gave us the box of 5 dozen flags that he ordered last year. We will put up the flags the weekend before Memorial Day, after Jacob has mowed. Rita will decorate the South Vershire/Mountain Ash cemetery, Peggy will do the same in the Vershire Center Cemetery and will help Eleanor decorate the Village Cemetery which, with over 40 veteran graves, is the biggest job.

We plan to hold our next meeting on Tuesday June 15 at 2PM, subject to change if, once we have consulted our calendars, we have a conflict.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret H. Darrow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Margaret H. Darrow

Vershire Cemetery Trustee