

## Vershire Cemetery Trustee meeting June 8, 2021, Vershire Town Center

Prior to the meeting, Cheryl Ash asked us about buying a lot in the Village Cemetery in the area of the Parker family graves if possible. At this point, she does not know if she wants to buy a full-sized plot or a half-sized plot. We will take a look at this area of the cemetery to see if this is possible and get back to her.

The meeting came to order at 2:35. Present: Rita French , Eleanor Zue and Margaret (Peggy) Darrow

In reference to Cheryl Ash's request, Rita suggested we find out about the ground penetrating radar to see if/where space exists in the cemetery. She believes that the Thetford Historical Society had this done for one of Thetford's cemeteries.

1. Restoration of the South Vershire/Mountain Ash cemetery. After a visit to the South Vershire/Mountain Ash cemetery, Jeremiah of Green Valley Memorials has submitted a new estimate for the restoration work that we'd like to have done there. There are more stones to be straightened and repaired now than there were two years ago when he first looked at the cemetery, but the price per stone has not risen. There are 35 stones to be straightened at \$65 a stone, 7 to be glued together at \$250 a stone, and 5 that need new concrete footings at \$200 a stone, for a total of \$5025 for this work. He estimates the work will take 1 to 2 weeks, depending on the weather, and requires a deposit of half the cost before beginning the work. Rita moved that we hire Green Valley Memorials to do this work; Eleanor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Peggy will email Jeremiah our decision and discuss payment with Gene Craft, the town clerk/treasurer.

2. Emergency tree removal to protect the South Vershire/Mountain Ash cemetery and the Vershire Center cemetery. Rita met with Phil Murphy from Chippers about taking trees down at South Vershire that overhang the cemetery and endanger grave stones. The trees are on adjacent land belonging to Kevin and Amy Walka, 496 Goose Land, Guilford CT 06437, although very far from their seasonal home there. Peggy will draft letter to them to ask permission to take the trees down. Another tree that must come down here is the big ash tree that is close to the projected fence line to the right of the cemetery entrance. This will need to be removed before the fence can be built (see the next item).

Rita will be meeting this week with Phil Murphy to look at dead trees that need to come down in Center Cemetery. Trees here may be on Donna Goldberg's land but the dead branches overhang the cemetery and endanger grave stones. We concluded we can have the dead branches removed.

3. The fence/gate project at the South Vershire/Mountain Ash cemetery. After talking to Denis Cilley at Broadway and Cilley funeral home in Chelsea, Rita thinks 12 foot gate

would suffice. From measurements taken in 2019, assuming a 12' gate, the fence in the front would be approximately 32' on one side and 40' on the other. We need to recheck the measurements for the Bedell plot at the back. Once we have a better approximation of the lengths of fence that we need, we have decided to post a notice on the town's listserv asking for anyone interested in building the fence to contact us.

4. Cemetery finances: We need to get updated financial information about the state of the Cemetery accounts from Gene before we make any more commitments.

5. Green burials. Eleanor drafted a green burial information sheet that she gave us to take a look at. We discussed it and she will work on the draft.

6. New business. Eleanor talked to Gary Goodrich about tracing some family history. He said that Andy Wasserman borrowed notes from him about Vershire genealogy to xerox them for the Trustee committee but never returned them. They are not in the material that she passed on to Peggy. Eleanor will call Andy to ask about this.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted



Margaret H. Darrow  
Vershire Cemetery Trustee