

Vershire Cemetery Trustee Meeting November 4 2021, Vershire Town Center

The meeting came to order at 2:10 PM. Present Eleanor Zue, Rita French, and Margaret (Peggy) Darrow.

1. South Vershire/Mountain Ash cemetery. Peggy reported that she sent the letter that we approved at our last meeting to Kerin and Amy Walka, the abutting property owners, registered it and requested a return receipt, to get their permission to cut down some trees that threaten the cemetery. According to the tracking, the letter was delivered on October 21. She received the receipt but in place of the recipient's signature is written "Covid19." She called the post office in Guilford CT to find out what this means. Apparently during the pandemic, the letter carrier writes this instead of having the recipient sign--to avoid close contact that might infect the carrier. I was assured that the letter carrier had indeed given the letter to the recipients. We have had no response from the Walkas. We then voted to ask the town's lawyer to write to them.

Peggy also took some measurements and has begun to sketch out a plan showing the location and extent of the large Powell plot, i.e., eleven adjacent plots. This should be filed with the deed and a copy kept in the records of the Cemetery Trustees.

2. Tree removal at the Vershire Center cemetery. Peggy took pictures of the fallen trees to include in a letter to the property owner, Donna Goldberg. She also noted that at least one tree on the Mountain School property also needs to come down. She called Chippers to talk to Bill Murphy but he was not in and has not returned her call. She will call him again. Meanwhile she will revise the letter to Ms Goldberg and send it with copies of the pictures. She also hopes to find someone to cut up and remove the trees that fell into the cemetery.

3. Vershire Village cemetery. Eleanor reported that Cheryl Ash has put in corner stones on the plot she purchased, but they do not conform to our specifications, being only about 2 inches square rather than 4.

4. Catholic Cemetery. Peggy investigated the deed of the property. Allen Rowell bought it from Green Crow. There is no mention in the deed of the cemetery at all so presumably he does not have any legal responsibility to maintain it. The Town has traditionally mowed it about once a year after the Catholic diocese abandoned it. We need to check into the history here. It is possible that Gary Goodrich has some knowledge of what happened when the diocese "threw it up." We decided we will ask the town for a special grant to have the damaged grave stones restored, circa \$1000. We need to know more about the history of the cemetery to include in this request.

5. Bylaws. This will be the main topic of our next meeting. We will look at Corinth's new multipage bylaws and consider what issues we need to cover in ours besides the issue of plantings and the number of adjacent lots that can be purchased at one time--for example lights and fenced plots.

The meeting 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 a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Margaret H. Darrow  
Vershire Cemetery Trustee