

Vershire Cemetery Trustee Meeting December 9 2021, Vershire Town Center

The meeting came to order at 2:05 PM. Present Eleanor Zue, and Margaret (Peggy) Darrow. Rita French absent

Vershire Village cemetery: Wesley Parker called each of us a few days ago to request permission to have a mill stone installed as a monument in the double grave plot he owns in the Vershire Village cemetery. According to our bylaws, the Cemetery trustee's permission is required for any installation in the cemetery. We voted unanimously to approve. Peggy will call him and send him a note.

Eleanor will finish up work on Cheryl Ash's grave plot, i.e., make a sketch map to file with the deed and for us to file, and will get a copy of the deed from Gene for our records.

South Vershire/Mountain Ash cemetery: Because we have had no response to our letters to the Walkas about tree removal near this cemetery, the town's lawyer, Mike Tarrant, has written a letter to them, indicating that if their trees fall into and damage the cemetery, they may be financially liable. We hope that this will get us a response.

Peggy has sketched a map of the Powell family plot and given Gene a copy to file with the deed; in return, Gene gave her a copy of the deed for our records.

Vershire Center cemetery: Jacob Mayer, who mows for us, has agreed to cut up the fallen trees in the cemetery. Peggy has had no luck reaching forester Bill Murphy of Chippers. However, she did speak to the property owner, Donna Goldberg on the phone. Donna readily agreed to us removing any dead trees that threaten to fall into the cemetery, but only dead ones. At least that is a start. We agreed we need to find another forester. Eleanor suggested the town tree warden, Mark Fogarty. Peggy will get in touch with him and see if she can arrange a meeting with him and Donna at the cemetery.

Catholic cemetery: Eleanor talked to Gary Goodrich about his research into the background of this cemetery. He had some information about David Ricker's burial; his grave is likely to be nearer to the grave of Florence and Frank Bousky than where we found his plaque. Eleanor will call Allen Rowell to ask what information he has about the Ricker grave and also about the cemetery's history, for instance when the Catholic diocese abandoned it and in what circumstances. Eleanor would like to investigate if Allen Rowell would be willing to deed the cemetery property to the town.

Bylaws: Eleanor and Peggy have read and reread the 14 page set of new bylaws instituted by the Corinth cemetery commission, looking for issues we should consider in a rewrite of our by laws. Issues we noted: the prohibition of alcohol (we have found beer cans in the Vershire Center cemetery), firearms, snow mobiles, ATVs and horses in

the cemeteries as well as defacing monuments, planting trees and shrubs, and erecting curbs and fences. Other issues include permitting cemetery trustees to remove any planting that becomes invasive or obstructive and any non-permanent objects from graves. Corinth's bylaws define terms such as monument, and marker, a good idea, and call for the cemetery commission to lay out and number grave lots in advance. We might consider this last procedure for the new section of the South Vershire/Mountain Ash cemetery and for any future new cemeteries. The Corinth bylaws also have a long section discussing liability issues that we need to consider.

End of the year/start of the year: We need to submit a budget request to the select board for projected maintenance expenses next year and a special request of circa \$1000 to restore graves in the Catholic cemetery. We need to find out from Gene how much mowing cost us this year.

Peggy will write the annual report for the town report.

Next year: the restoration of the Vershire Village cemetery. We voted to contact Green Valley Memorials to get an updated estimate and to be on their radar screen for work next summer. Judging by their estimate from 2017, such restoration should cost around \$8000 unless a lot more stones have fallen and broken since 2017. If we get a grant from the town,--circa \$1000--to restore the Catholic Cemetery, that too could be done next summer.

And finally, we need to find someone to build the fence and install the gate at the South Vershire cemetery.

Next meeting may be January 13th. Peggy will find out when we need to get the budget request in, if it needs to be before then.

The meeting adjourned 3:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret H. Darrow
Vershire Cemetery Trustee