

Vershire Cemetery Trustee Meeting April 7, 2022, Vershire Town Center

The meeting came to order at 2:16 PM. Present: Rita French, Margaret (Peggy) Darrow, Eleanor Zue

Updates on old business.

Village Cemetery: Eleanor has made a diagram of the location of the grave lot that Cheryl Ash purchased at the Village Cemetery. It is just downhill from the Francis Ryan grave. Next to the Francis Ryan grave is a double lot that has corner markers but no grave stone. We suspect that this lot belongs to Wesley and Patty Parker. There is a sketch map of a double lot purchased by Wesley and Patty, but its location is not entirely clear. Eleanor and Peggy will investigate this further when they continue to check the list of grave stones in this cemetery.

Peggy emailed Jeremiah of Green Mountain Memorials to remind him to update the estimate for restoring stones there. She asked that he email Eleanor to arrange a time to meet there so she can go through the cemetery with him.

Catholic Cemetery: Peggy presented our request for a grant of \$1000 to restore grave stones in the Catholic Cemetery to the Select Board in January. She does not know if they decided to include this in the general budget request or as a separate article.

South Vershire/Mountain Ash Cemetery: Chippers cut the trees along the property line with the Walka property and also cut down the big ash tree at the future fence line. Rita will see about having that ash cut up for fire wood. Peggy will see about getting fill for the Bedell plot that also needs to be fenced and where graves have subsided, leaving holes.

Vershire Center Cemetery. Since our last meeting, Bill Murphy met with Peggy there and marked trees that need to come down, including 10 dead trees on Donna Goldberg's property. Chippers has sent us an estimate for all the work he thinks needs to be done around this cemetery---\$8500. We think this is too high and intend to get another forester to look at the situation. In the meantime, however, we need to get written permission from Donna Goldberg to remove the dead trees on her property that have been identified as dangerous to the cemetery. Peggy will contact Mark Fogarty, the town's tree warden, to take a look at the situation and Rita has the name of another forester who did good work for a neighbor.

The Bylaws: We decided that rather than a long list of behavior to be prohibited in the cemeteries, prohibitions that would be difficult to enforce, we would like an introductory paragraph expressing the need for respectful behavior. We would limit the direct prohibitions to things that would damage the cemeteries. We discussed again the issue of plantings and decided we are not interested in following Corinth's lead in prohibiting artificial flowers and all plantings. Rather, we would prohibit only trees

and plantings that are invasive and/or encroaching. We need a clause in the bylaws that permits the cemetery trustees to remove objects and plantings from graves if necessary.

We discussed again the number of lots that can be purchased at one time and agreed on a limit of 4. We have not agreed on what the cost should be for the extra lots. Peggy and Eleanor will try to draft some language to revise the bylaws.

New business:

Memorial Day is May 30. Peggy has asked Gene Craft to order flags again for us. Eleanor reported that the driveway near the turn up into the cemetery is badly rutted and needs a load of gravel. Peggy will ask if the road crew can provide this prior to Memorial Day. Peggy has emailed Jacob Mayer (Green Mountain Mowing) to thank him once again for his good work in the past, assure him that we want him to continue to mow the cemeteries and to remind him to mow prior to Memorial Day.

Scattered small family grave yards. Also once weather is better, we intend to locate the several small grave yards that are scattered around town on private property.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday May 12 at 2 PM.
The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Margaret H. Darrow".

Margaret H. Darrow
Vershire Cemetery Trustee