

## Vershire Cemetery Trustee Meeting June 9, 2022, Vershire Town Center

The meeting came to order 3:38 PM. Present Margaret (Peggy) Darrow and Eleanor Zue. Rita French arrived at 3:45. Eleanor had to leave at 4:00 for another meeting but returned at about 4:30.

Old business:

Vershire Village Cemetery: Eleanor has written up a description for Mary Sarazin's deed and Gene Craft has drawn up the deed. Mary has paid for the plot and has had the corner markers installed. They are plain markers, without any initial, 6" square and flush with the ground. Eleanor will draw up a sketch map of the location of the plot to file with the deed.

According to Jeremiah Sperry of Green Valley Memorials, they will have finished the restoration at this cemetery prior to the Sarazin burial which is scheduled to take place between July 4 and 11.

Gene has given us a copy of the deed to Cheryl Ash's plot for our records. Eleanor placed new flags at the veterans' graves.

South Vershire/Mountain Ash Cemetery: Rita reports that she and the town road crew have cleared the cemetery of wood from the big ash tree that was cut down last fall so that Jason was able to mow before Memorial Day. Rita placed new flags at the veterans' graves.

Vershire Village Cemetery: Peggy has contacted Donna Goldberg to get her permission to cut down several dead trees that threaten the cemetery from her property. Donna sent an email yesterday explaining that she hasn't had time to take a look at the situation but will do so soon. She also suggested another tree cutting company, Eli Mintz of Old City Tree Services in Strafford, (802 765 4768). Peggy will follow up on this because we are agreed that Chippers estimate for the work needed in this cemetery is much too high.

Peggy placed new flags at the veterans' graves.

Catholic cemetery: Our request for \$1000 to restore the grave stones at this cemetery passed at Town meeting. Rita will talk to Allen Rowell to get his permission to have this work done. After we have his permission, we will ask Green Valley Memorials to look it over and give us an estimate.

Bylaws: Peggy researched industry standards for foundation of monuments and grave markers, calling three memorial companies, Green Valley Memorials in Randolph, Twin State Monuments in Hartford and Littleton Monuments in Littleton. It turns out that their practices differ. Green Valley requires a 4 ft deep concrete foundation for monuments and 2 ft of hard pack (also called ledge pack or staymat) for grave markers.

Twin State also requires 4 ft of concrete for monuments but only 12 inches of hard pack or 2 inches of concrete for grave markers. Littleton sets monuments in 3 to 4 ft of concrete, depending on the soil, and recommends setting grave markers in 6 inches of hard pack. None require a skirting around the foundation so that requirement in our current bylaws seems not to be needed. Peggy drafted a new paragraph using the minimums of 3 ft concrete foundation for monuments (this is also the minimum in Corinth's new bylaws) and 6 inches of hard pack or 2 inches of concrete for grave markers.

The current draft refers to monuments and markers, also called plaques. Rita suggested finding another term for "markers" because of the possible confusion with corner markers, which don't need any foundations. We discussed "plaques" but didn't like the sound of it. In these minutes and in future drafts of the bylaws I will use "grave marker" in hopes this will be clear.

We discussed the problem of identifying the location of multiple cremation burials in the same plot. Rather than requiring a grave maker indicating the location of each burial, we will require that the owners of the lot update the map of the grave plot after each burial, showing the location of each burial.

New business:

South Vershire/Mountain Ash Cemetery: Actually, old, old business, the fence and gate. After the failure of our efforts to do this work ourselves or find friends or relatives willing to undertake it, we have decided to contract someone to build the fence and install the gate this summer.

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday July 14 at 2 PM at the Town Center.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Margaret H. Darrow  
Vershire Cemetery Trustee