

Vershire Cemetery Trustee Meeting, August 4, 2022
at the home of Margaret Darrow, 8306 rte 113, Vershire VT.

Minutes

The meeting came to order at 2:15 PM. Present Peggy Darrow, Rita French, and Eleanor Zue, Vershire Cemetery Trustees.

Old business

Vershire Village Cemetery: Green Valley Memorials has completed the restoration work there and we have received the bill: \$9310.00. We have some questions. The tape that the restoration workers had put around the stones that they worked on has been removed--we don't know by whom--so it is difficult to judge what they did. Also they seem to have dumped two piles of rubble--concrete and stone-- at the side of the cemetery. After this meeting, we propose to go as a group to review the situation and to get in touch with Jeremiah Sperry to ask about these issues. For the present we are withholding payment.

Corner markers have been installed on the Sarazin plot. They are stone, light in color and plain, i.e., no initials. Eleanor identified where the cremation container is buried in the plot and has a preliminary drawing of the plot.

Vershire Center Cemetery: Eli Mintz of Old City Tree Service, recommended by Donna Goldberg, accompanied by Peggy, viewed the work that needs to be done there, taking down trees that threaten the cemetery. He agreed with Chippers evaluation and explained some of the problems that the work would entail, in particular that it will be necessary to use a lift because some of the trees cannot be climbed. He was to get back to us with an estimate however in a recent phone message from him, he has withdrawn from the project, evaluating it as too problematic. One of the problems is that the abutting landowner, Donna Goldberg, has not given us permission to take down the trees that need to be removed from the edge of her property, despite the fact that they are dying or already dead, and very likely to fall into the cemetery and cause damage to the gravestones. Our ways forward are few; we will talk to Gene Craft. We also need to take pictures of all the stones that are in harm's way.

South Vershire/Mountain Ash Cemetery: Rita checked plumb of pillar that appeared to be off-kilter and it is straight.

Wesley Parker has not been in touch about the fence project. Gene Craft suggested Mike Gunn as another possible fence-builder. Rita reports that Ellis Page has a post-hole digger and could be hired to dig the post holes for the fence at relatively low cost.

Revision of the Bylaws. We corrected typos and made some changes in wording to increase clarity. We also checked the meaning of cement and concrete to be sure we are using these terms correctly in the bylaws. We may now have a final draft. Peggy will

make the corrections and send it out to Rita and Eleanor for a final read-through before submitting it to Gene to go to the Select Board for their approval.

New Business;

The problem with the corner markers of the Powell plot in the South Vershire Cemetery that Rita and Peggy corrected last month raised the issue of how to avoid this in the future. Unless the plot owner moves very quickly to have corner markers installed, our temporary markers, i.e, sticks or pegs, can easily get moved by mowing. This is probably what happened at the Powell plot. After a discussion of various alternatives, we decided to investigate buying a set of stone corner markers to be used temporarily until the permanent ones are installed. We would paint them or stamp them in some way to indicate they are temporary, and set them flush with the ground so that mowing would not disturb them. Rita will call the Fairlee Monument Company to inquire about buying corner markers cheaply, perhaps seconds.

Finances: We have been concerned that the recent plunge of the stock market would strain our ability to do the work that needs to be done in the cemeteries. Gene has given us the figures as of July 1. The situation is not as bad as we feared because the past couple of years saw our investments grow considerably. The account has taken a hit, but it remains strong, a bit above where it was a year ago. As of July 1, 2021, we had \$79,889 in our account; as of this year July 1, we have \$81,410, of which \$51,185 is in the Growth account.

Circa \$9000 is owed to Green Valley Memorials; the tree cutting at the Vershire Center Cemetery, if we are ever able to do this, would cost ca. \$9000. We do not so far have an estimate for the cost of fencing the South Vershire Cemetery, and we need to have some trees taken down along the edge of the Vershire Village Cemetery. We have enough money at present to pay for these projects. However, they will leave us without much in reserve.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday September 15 at 2 PM, probably in the Town Center.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted



Margaret H. Darrow
Vershire Cemetery Trustee