

Vershire Cemetery Trustee Meeting, October 19, 2023 at Vershire Town Center
Minutes

The meeting came to order 2:10 PM. Present Peggy Darrow and Eleanor Zue; absent Rita French

Village Cemetery

Bard plots in Village cemetery. Natalie Bard has submitted to Gene Craft a sketch locating the plot she recent purchased adjacent to the plot owned by her father, Réal Bard. However we need drawing of where who is buried in Mr. Bard's plot which contains several cremation urns.

Fuller grave: Rita spoke to Billy Hodge about the fact that the grave was inadequately filled in, leaving gaping holes on both sides. He was upset to learn this but he has taken no action to correct the problem. Eleanor has been able to add some dirt to the holes but there are still significant depressions around the top of the grave.

Sarazin grave: Mary Sarazin has installed a memorial on the grave of her father. He was buried in July.

Tree removal: Justin Ford has submitted a proposal for removing three trees from edge of Village Cemetery, one large pine tree that is part way down the bank and threatens the Town Office and two large maples at the top of the bank on cemetery property that threaten the cemetery. He has proposed three price options for each tree: 1) \$1500 for each maple if he were to leave the trees, once cut down, on the bank; 2) \$2000 a maple if he were to chip and remove the limbs and but leave the trunks; 3) \$2500 a maple if he were to chip and remove everything. The cost for cutting down the pine tree would be more in each instance. After a long discussion, we decided that we need to get the maples cut down as soon as possible, without waiting for a decision from the town about the pine tree. We voted unanimously to hire Mr. Ford to remove the maples that threaten the cemetery and to leave the trunks and limbs on the bank. We would like him, if reasonable, to leave standing about 8 foot of each maple trunk. We sent him an email to this effect.

South Vershire cemetery:

Fence project: On hold until we have information about the cost of fence posts and fence boards. Peggy Darrow talked to people at J & M Nursery in Bradford and Brown's in Thetford Center about appropriate bushes that would be low-maintenance and not grow too tall. Dwarf lilac and spirea were suggested, each costing between \$40-\$50 apiece. Chris, at Browns, recommended spirea over dwarf lilac because it is not eaten by deer. Depending what we decide regarding the layout of the fencing, we would need 3 to 5 buses, thus costing \$120-\$250. Plus the cost of planting the bushes.

Powell plot: Peggy wrote to Therese Powell about the need to install a memorial of some kind to identify the grave specifically and the plot which is large and unusual -- eleven plots in a row--for future reference. We did not receive any response Our only address for her is her brother Jack who has an address on rte 113 but also, apparently, in Florida. We need to figure out how to follow up on this.

Location of recent cremation burials (Fitch and David): We still need this information.

Catholic Cemetery: We discussed the proposal that the town acquire the Catholic Cemetery. Gary Goodrich says that Allen Rowell would like to give the cemetery to the town, and that the Vershire Historical Society would pay for the needed deed if the cost were in the neighborhood of \$100. We are concerned that this would not be the only cost. The land would need to be surveyed and made into a separate lot. We would need to assume full maintenance of it: mowing, tree cutting, etc. We are not sure that we have the resources to assume this charge. Consultation with the Select Board is in order.

Other business:

Temporary corner stones: Block Plant seems to have disappeared. Rita has proposed making temporary corner stones out of wood, a good idea. They would be more clearly "temporary," to insure that the plot purchaser does install permanent ones.

Cemeteries in the Town Plan. Gretchen Harvey has asked for descriptions of all the cemeteries including private ones for Historical Resources section of the new Town Plan. We have descriptions of the three town cemeteries in the introduction of the Bylaws. Peggy will consult with Gary Goodrich and write up a brief description of Catholic Cemetery and information about the other private cemeteries.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15.

Respectfully submitted,



Margaret H. Darrow
Vershire Cemetery Trustee