

Vershire Cemetery Trustee Meeting, November 9, 2023 at Vershire Town Center Minutes

The meeting came to order at 2:30 PM. Present: Peggy Darrow, Eleanor Zue and Rita French

General issues:

Temporary corner stones: Rita has suggested using wood blocks rather than stone as temporary corner stones to mark exactly where the purchaser of a grave lot should place the permanent corner stones. Peggy found 4 appropriate wood blocks in her garage, left over from some past project. The top of each measures 6" by 6" but a couple of them are 8" deep instead of 6". However they should work OK, better than the rebar stakes that we have used recently.

Description of Vershire cemeteries for the Town Plan: Peggy circulated a draft of the descriptions of the three town cemeteries and the 6 private cemeteries. After some discussion, she was tasked with revising it to include more information about the South Vershire cemetery. Rita lent her the map of the cemetery and the listing of the inscriptions, made in the 1970s, to have copied for us and also for the Historical Society.

Inspired by the directions dating from the 1980s to the private cemeteries. Eleanor and Peggy went to look for Smith Hill cemetery that is on Mr. Aldo Clark's property. Having obtained his permission, we had a nice scramble in the woods, almost to the summit of the hill, found a substantial stone wall and some stone pillars, but didn't find the cemetery. A subsequent discussion with Mr. Clark showed us where we had gone wrong. We'll try again. We would also like to locate the Taylor Valley cemetery.

Village Cemetery

Burial plot update: Réal Bard gave Gene a sketch of where cremation burials are in his double plot and Gene made us a copy for our records. Natalie and Maurice Bard have had a plaque installed on the adjacent double plot they purchased this summer that indicates the location of 2 cremation burials, that of Amber Jean Pelletier and Kody Michael Pelletier. A sketch of this has been placed in our records.

Tree removal: Justin Ford of Forty Acre Tree Service will be working next week to take down two large maple trees that have dropped branches onto the cemetery and threaten more damage. His estimate is \$3000 for the 2 trees. He will leave about 8' of the trunks standing and put the rest of the trunks and branches on the town land below the cemetery. We'll ask Gene about the possibility of cutting this wood for fire wood. We are concerned about insurance issues for people working on town land.

South Vershire cemetery:

Grave plots: The large Powell plot (eleven contiguous grave lots) needs a monument or plaque to identify it and Mr. Powell's grave. Having received no reply to the letter we sent in August to Teresa Powell about this, we have sent the letter again, this time to her sister, Flora Powell, who, in fact was the person who paid for the plot.

Rita reports that Sheila Beatty has a sketch of where the cremation urn of her father Mike Fitch is located in their plot and will give it to Rita. She also reports that a sketch of the location of a cremation in the Davis plot will be forthcoming.

Fence project, on hold until the spring.

Center cemetery: Peggy has continued to work, cutting brush back around the edges of the cemetery, with the help of Eleanor and Suzanne Gauthier. This is now nearly done. We hope the cemetery will be ready to be more completely mowed in the spring.

Catholic cemetery: We discussed the issue of taking over this cemetery, if indeed Allen Rowell wants to sell or give the property to the town. We need to know if the cemetery is a separate lot or if in order to acquire it we would need a subdivision and survey, before we raise this issue with Allen and with the Select Board.

Peggy suggested that if we do acquire this cemetery, we might designate part of it as a site for "green" i.e., natural burials.

We expect that this is our last meeting in 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 3PM

Respectfully submitted,



Margaret H. Darrow
Vershire Cemetery Trustee