

Vershire Cemetery Trustee Meeting, June 13, 2024 at Vershire Town Center Minutes

The meeting came to order at 3: 12 PM Present: Eleanor Zue, Rita French, Peggy Darrow

Memorial Day: Despite the intermittent rain Memorial Day weekend, Mark Fogarty did very good last-minute mowing of all three cemeteries. Rita is pleased that he left a large patch of creeping phlox blooming in the South Vershire cemetery. We decorated the veterans' graves with flags; Rita checked up on some recent burials to see if they were veterans' graves. So the cemeteries were in good shape for Memorial Day.

Investment funds: Peggy checked with Gene Craft; as of the last quarter, the Cemetery invested funds were \$92,000 so we can undertake the projects we hope to do this year, i.e., fencing the South Vershire cemetery and tree cutting in the Center cemetery

Village Cemetery: Justin Ford has not responded to Eleanor's emails regarding having the grave stone repaired that was broken when his team cut down the trees there last fall. She will keep after him.

In the process of rechecking some inscriptions and placement of graves for the digital inventory of the graves in this cemetery, Peggy and Eleanor discovered the gravestone plaque of Alleyne Howell that had sunken into the ground and was completely grown over with grass and weeds. Unfortunately its position at the back fence means this is bound to recur because bushes and weeds grow through the fence. Perhaps we can get the plaque raised somewhat to make it more visible.

The inventory project, begun 5 years ago, is now finally completed. It is numbered by rows so that graves are easier to find and also so we can include new entries as more burials occur without extensive renumbering. Peggy emailed a copy to Gene Craft for the town records and also for him to print out several copies for us and for the Historical Society.

Peggy reported that this new listing has already proven its utility. She had a phone call from Sharon Croteau who was looking for the grave of her grandmother, Margaret Blanchard. She had spoken to Rita some time ago but the grave was not in the South Vershire cemetery. Now with the digital listing of the Village cemetery, Peggy was able quickly to find all the Blanchard graves and direct Mr. Croteau to Margaret's, R2.8.

South Vershire cemetery fencing project: Rita remeasured the distance along the front of the cemetery as approximately 172'. She checked the materials that she has and found we don't need to buy too much to have enough to have the fence built: we need five more 16' pressure treated decking boards for the front fence rails. At Foggs price of \$23. 83 a board, this comes to \$119.15. We also need three more 12' ones at \$14.93 a piece (\$44.79) to fence the Bedell plot at the back. We don't need to buy any more posts. So the total for materials will be \$163.94 assuming lumber prices don't jump any higher. Rita will call Ellis Page to see if he will do the work.

New projects: Peggy is going to work on updating and digitizing the gravestone inventories done by Earl Russell in the 1970s for the South Vershire and Vershire Center cemeteries. Because of his careful work, this will not take long to complete.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday July 11th at 2:00 PM.
The meeting Adjourned at 4: 05.



Respectfully submitted
Margaret H. Darrow