

Vershire Cemetery Trustee Meeting minutes, August 10, 2023, Town Center

The meeting came to order at 2:12. Present Peggy Darrow and Eleanor Zue, absent Rita French. Rita arrived at 2:40.

Vershire Village Cemetery

Fuller burial: After our meeting last month we discovered that a burial transit permit had not been filed with the town clerk for the Fuller burial. We were able to call the funeral director Nick Whitcomb to remind him that no burial could take place without this permit. He promised to come immediately from Barre to file the permit which he did. We marked out the space for Joanne Fuller's grave in the double plot she shares with her husband, Frederick. The burial took place on Saturday July 8. When Eleanor visited the cemetery a few days later, she discovered that the grave had not been filled in properly: deep holes left along the sides and at the corners. Rita has left a message to Mr Hodge about this but has not heard back.

Bard plot: Natalie Bard and her brother Maurice purchased a double plot adjacent to the one owned by their father Real Bard, installed the corner stones, and buried a cremation urn. There have been several cremation burials in Real Bard's plot. We need to get a sketch map of who is buried in these plots and where.

Broken grave stones: Steve Ducey from Green Valley Memorials visited the cemetery to view the damage caused by the fall of a large tree limb. He sent an estimate for the restoration work--\$150--and hopes to be able to do the work next week when he returns to finish the job at the Catholic cemetery (see below). We approved this proposal.

Tree removal: Still no response from Bill Murphy. We need to contact other people who do tree work. One possibility is Pete Amber in Chelsea. We will research others. Gene Craft raised the possibility of the town sharing some of the cost of taking down trees that threaten both the cemetery and the town office.

Eleanor has been working with her loppers to clear saplings and brush creeping in from the edges of the cemetery.

South Vershire cemetery

Fence project: We visited the South Vershire Cemetery on Aug 3 to look at the terrain once more and review fencing options: extend the existing fence or plant bushes or both. From the end of the current fence across the front of cemetery is approximately 176 ft. We already have some materials: 18 posts, 30 8' boards; 7 14' boards. We need 4 posts and 6 14' boards to fence the Bedell plot. That leaves 14 posts and all the 8' boards to extend the fence across the front of the cemetery. One option would be to complete the fence all the way across. Using materials we have, this would extend it 120'--leaving approximately 56' to be fenced by new materials, i.e., 14 8' boards and 7 posts. Another option would combine sections of fence with a section of planted bushes. One such arrangement would extend the existing fence 56', using 7 posts and 14 boards. Then in a gap of approximately 64' plant bushes, and then install another 56' section of fence using the rest of existing materials plus one more post. Before we make a decision, we need to price out these options--price of posts and boards, price of shrubs--and also to evaluate how difficult it would be to plant and water shrubs.

Catholic cemetery

Restoration: On August 7 Steve Ducey from Green Valley Memorials and his crew worked to restore seven grave stones in the Catholic cemetery. They could not apply a final coating of sealant to the joints because it started to rain; they will return next week to finish the job.

Vershire Center Cemetery

Maintenance: Peggy has been using her new brush cutter to hack away at the briars and saplings that have invaded this cemetery. She has cleared space around 2 graves that had disappeared into the jungle and has located another. Eleanor also helped--but there is much more to do.

Temporary corner stones: Rita talked to Wholesale Granite in Fairlee about getting seconds or cut-rate corner stones but they don't have any. Apparently the Bards acquired their corner stones at Block Plant in West Lebanon. We will investigate this source.

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday Sept 14 at 2 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15

Respectfully submitted,



Margaret H. Darrow
Vershire Cemetery Trustee