

Vershire Cemetery Trustee Meeting, October 10, 2024 at
the Town Center, 27 Town Center Rd, Vershire

Minutes

The meeting came to order at 2:10. Present: Peggy Darrow, Rita French, Eleanor Zue

Maintenance:

Mowing. Mark will mow the last time this weekend. We agreed he has done a good job this year and been very careful and cooperative, cutting back brush and bringing to our attention sink holes that need to be filled as well as finding and restoring Peggy's loppers that mysteriously disappeared in the Center cemetery. Peggy discussed with him mowing for us next year. He definitely would like to do so but must charge more. He bid a bit too low for this past mowing season plus his insurance costs have increased and will do so again next year. He proposes charging \$605 a mow, for 11 mows next year, or \$6655. We agreed that this is fair; last spring we thought his price was low.

Sink holes: We signed and submitted a work order authorizing Mark to fill three sink holes in the South Vershire / Mt. Ash cemetery. Rita will check to see Mark has done this. In the future we need to make out the work order to his company, Pine Grove Farm, not to him personally, because it is his company that is insured.

Clean-up after the tree cutting last fall at the Vershire Village cemetery: Eleanor has called and emailed Justin Ford several times but has not heard from him and he obviously has not followed through by removing the large tree trunks or repairing the broken stone. She will now write to him but we are about out of options. We will not be hiring him again.

Tree down in the Village cemetery: Eleanor reported that a small dead tree has fallen into the Village cemetery. She spoke to Gene Craft who recommended that she call the road crew which she did, leaving a message for Doug Stone. The tree has been cut up and removed. Thank you Doug Stone!

Other projects:

Fencing South Vershire. Rita spoke to Ellis Paige this morning. He will work on the fence this weekend or next.

As we noted last month, Eleanor wrote to Kay Morton about the problem with Alleyne Howell's grave plaque, i.e., that it has sunken into the ground and is crooked. The plaque has now been straitened and elevated so that it is easier to mow around.

The sale of cemetery plots: Peggy emailed the town lawyer, Mike Tarrant, for information but has not had a reply.

New business:

Burial plot for Cheryl Ash: Some time ago, Cheryl Ash asked Eleanor about obtaining a burial plot in the Village cemetery but hasn't followed up. There are now only one or perhaps two plots available for purchase there. Eleanor will get in touch with her to see if she wants to purchase one.

Historical Society walk: Marc Harvey has asked Peggy to lead a tour of the Vershire Center cemetery for the Historical Society. This will take place next Sunday afternoon, October 13, at 1:30 PM.

Sharon Croteau has called Peggy to say that the grave of her great grandmother, Margaret Stanton Blanchard, is lying flat on its face so is not legible. She wants it put

right. We think she has probably looked at the wrong stone. Eleanor will check this out and call her.

Projects for next year:

Budget request for next fiscal year: We have a figure for regular mowing (see above). This year we started using the General Maintenance budget to fill sink holes in the South Vershire/Mt. Ash cemetery. There are more that need attention there, especially the large hole in the Bedell plot, and also some lesser depressions in the Village cemetery. We need to increase our budget request for general maintenance to fill at least some of these.

Tree cutting: We urgently need to have trees cut on all three sides of the Center Cemetery. We were hoping to hire Justin Ford to do this, but now feel that that is impossible. So we need to find another tree maintenance company to do this job.

South Vershire/Mt. Ash digitalization: Peggy has digitalized Mr. Russell's listing of inscriptions in the South Vershire/Mt. Ash cemetery. This needs to be brought up to date to include the monuments installed since the 1970s and organized by rows. Robert Bacon has published a booklet about doing this in Thetford's cemeteries. Peggy will consult it for ideas and plans.

Gravestone cleaning: We will look into the latest information about cleaning gravestones. What we are looking for is technology and/or cleaning agents that remove lichen and other incrustations without damaging the stone--whatever kind of stone, slate, granite or marble--and which have a lasting effect, more than a couple of years, at least.

This will probably be our last meeting of 2024 but if we need another meeting it will be on November 14 at 2 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret H. Darrow', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Margaret H. Darrow
Vershire Cemetery Trustee