

Vershire Cemetery Trustee Meeting, Thursday October 9 at 2 PM
in the Town Center, 27 Vershire Center Rd., Vershire, VT

The meeting came to order at 2:12 PM. Present Eleanor Zue and Peggy Darrow. Absent Rita French

Old Business

Tree cutting at the Vershire Center and South Vershire/Mt. Ash cemeteries:
We hired Owen Wagner of Wagner Tree Care in Thetford to do this work which he began in early September. He did cut down and remove the trees that were marked for removal. At the same time, he broke two grave stones, one in the Vershire Center Cemetery, that of Charles H. Worthing (0.30), and one in the South Vershire Cemetery, that of Fannie M. Bugbee (L1.10). Both of these were apparently broken by the heavy equipment, not by falling trees or tree limbs. This equipment also left deep ruts in the Center cemetery and very deep holes in the S. Vershire Cemetery. When we brought this damage to Mr. Wagner's attention, he did, eventually, repair it. Once the work and reparations were complete, we submitted to the Town clerk an order for payment of \$8395 to Wagner Tree Service on September 30. Gene told us the check has been sent out this week. We are not happy with Mr. Wagner's work and will not hire him again.

Replacement of the gravestone in the Village Cemetery destroyed by Justin Ford's tree cutting two years ago:
Eleanor talked to Brenna Ordway at Twin State Monuments in White River. For some reason, she has a photo of the gravestone that we need to replace. Replacing it with an upright stone in marble or granite is far beyond our budget but it may be possible to replace it with a stone or metal plaque. A stone plaque, 24x12x4 would cost circa \$764 but we would need to install it ourselves, either in concrete or on a bed of crushed stone. Eleanor will get estimates from other monument companies.

Raising gravestones that are laying flat:
Eleanor has taken an inventory of such stones in the Village Cemetery as noted in last meeting's minutes. She will do a more detailed inventory to identify stones that might be good candidates to be raised. Also, she has found a base in good condition with a slot for an upright stone that has been buried in undergrowth.

This month Peggy inventoried such stones in the Center and South Vershire Cemeteries. The numbers here locate these stones in the gravestone listings of these cemeteries. There is only one in the Center cemetery: Johnathan Maltby (R13.8): its condition isn't clear. Two broken gravestones with the bottom parts still standing have the top parts leaning against them. These may be repaired at some point, and the stone

of Perley Holmes (279), found in the woods, could be placed where it should go in Row R13. It is now leaning against one of the cedars.

There are five stones fallen flat in the South Vershire Cemetery. Polly Carleton's stone (L7.5) is too badly broken to be disturbed. Her husband, George Carleton's stone (L16.2), is leaning in the undergrowth at the back of the cemetery and might be replaced next to his wife's grave. The stones of Charlotte Godfrey, (L9.19) and Lucy Cowdery Godfrey (L12.4) are broken into large pieces that might be possible to raise. The stones of Otis Post Banker (L15.12) and Arma Bacon (L16.8) appear to be intact and could be raised. There is also Sarah Kenney Holmes (L15.16), broken with the bottom part still standing. The top part could be raised or perhaps the entire stone repaired.

Mowing:

Mark Fogarty who, with his wife and son, has been mowing for us, had a very serious accident. We learned that just yesterday he has returned home from a month or more in the hospital and rehabilitation. We wish him a complete and rapid recovery. Meanwhile we may have money in our budget for one or two mows (\$605-1210) and also the general maintenance allowance of \$500. Gene will let us know. Depending on how much we have, we could hire someone else to mow once or use this money to replace the destroyed gravestone in the Village cemetery.

Our next meeting and final meeting will be Thursday Nov 20 at 2 PM

The meeting adjourned at 3 PM.

Respectfully submitted



Margaret H. Darrow
Vershire Cemetery Trustee