

Town of Jaffrey Cemetery Committee

Next Meeting: Thursday 8 October 2015 at 2pm at Town Office

AGENDA:

- Annual meeting with DPW and Town Manager and Election
- Reports on cemeteries
- Update from Cemetery Tour Committee
- Hearse House discussion and possible action

Notes on the meeting held on 3 September 2015 at 2pm at Phillips-Heil Cemetery then Old Burying Ground

The following met at 2pm at Phillips-Heil Cemetery: Richard Boutwell, Bill Driscoll, Don MacIsaac, Emily Preston, Rob Stephenson, Kevin Sterling and Charles Turcotte. Also, Randy Heglin.

Phillips-Heil Cemetery was inspected. The chain encircling a tree at the entrance to Phillips needs to be removed before the tree is killed. Charlie offered to do so. The southerly granite entrance post is leaning and needs to be straightened. It is loose so can be done by volunteers. A birch and a large dead tree on the south side of the roadway will be removed by DPW. Some washout of the road along the south side of Phillips was noted. As mentioned in the past the stonewall around Phillips needs some mending. Some of the stones can be dealt with by hand by volunteers; others will need help from the DPW or others. One headstone at the west end of Phillips needs resetting. Sometime later in September or in October when the weather is good, Rob will e-mail members to call for volunteers to do the above work and to straighten stones in the Old Burying Ground.

Emily reported for the Tour Committee (Cynthia Hamilton, Dick Boutwell, Emily Preston and Paul St Pierre). Twelve gravesites have been chosen in Conant. Information on the person/family is being collected. A brochure will be produced and a jointly sponsored (Cemetery Committee and Historical Society) tour will be scheduled for a Sunday in June 2016. People will be given the brochure and will wander around to the gravesites where a volunteer will be at each to talk about the respective person/family.

The Committee then went to the Old Burying Ground where it discussed the Hearse House proposed by the Historical Society. The original proposed site demarcated by a steel conduit mockup, now shifted 15 feet to the west, was inspected. This has the advantage of being consistent with the traditional location of such structures, i.e. in or immediately adjacent to the cemetery. Also an alternative site across Blackberry Lane demarcated by surveyors tape was inspected. This alternative involves clearing the site of all trees and undertaking some grading. The second alternatives—either beside and to the south of the Little Red Schoolhouse or behind and to the west of the Little Red Schoolhouse—were also inspected. The advantages of these two sites are that very little site preparation would be needed. The disadvantage is that a Hearse House would not have been placed originally in such locations. After significant discussion, it was agreed that the Committee will wait until after the JHS board has met on the 10th of September and then continue discussion of the matter at its next meeting (8 October), taking action of some sort, either specific or in general, at that time. Don MacIsaac noted that the proposal should go to the Historic District Commission before going back to the Board of Selectmen.

The meeting adjourned at about 3:15 at the Old Burying Ground.

FUTURE MEETING: 8 October at Town Office—Annual Meeting with DPW Director and Town Manager. Other meetings as needed.

Randy Cournoyer	Cournoyer Funeral Home	
Don MacIsaac	Selectmen Representative	
Robert Stephenson	Historical Society Representative	Village Cemetery Overseer
Charles Turcotte	V.F.W. Representative	
Bill Sheldon	American Legion Representative	
Richard Boutwell	Member at Large	Conant Overseer
Cynthia Hamilton	Member at Large	Cutter Overseer
Emily Preston	Member at Large	Conant Recorder
Kevin Sterling	Member at Large	Old Burying Ground Overseer
Paul St Pierre	Non-voting associate	Genealogist
William Driscoll	Member at Large	Phillips-Heil Overseer
Bruce Hill	Associate	