

**Peacham Cemetery Preservation Committee Meeting Minutes  
from May 19, 2020 meeting (tour of main cemetery) Preliminary**

Committee Members Present: Karen Lewis, Annette Lorraine, Bob Morgan  
Public: Cheryl Stevenson (sexton), Ron Craig (sexton), Peter Craig (selectboard member), Mary Daly

Called to order at 8:05am at the main cemetery, with reminder to wear masks and keep social distancing for safety.

Discussed with Cheryl S. arrangements for Corrections Crew to mow the cemetery weekly as well as the Town Green (with war memorial) and adjacent triangle.

Viewed shed with equipment. Discussed with Cheryl S. what looked to be a very recent diesel fuel spill inside the shed that had not been addressed or contained.

Toured cemetery. There were a lot of winter blow-downs, primarily from the white pines; Cheryl said Corrections crew would remove them. Saw some of the recently cleaned historic monuments; cleaning of different segments is rotated annually. There is a large brush pile against the front fence that is compromising the fence; it should be moved. We should probably designate a location for brush or see if we can get permission to use the Town road crew's location at the transfer station. Some monuments need repairs; if historic, the Town funds the repair, but if recent, the family arranges and funds the repair.

There were some saplings (some grown into trees) that are compromising monuments and burial sites that need removing; same with saplings compromising landscaping plants like lilacs and hydrangea. Cheryl explained the dimensions of the roots of a tree typically mirror its crown. There is rubbish from old decorations that need to be cleaned out. We noticed a variety of decorations including those that are breakable, including broken glass, and solar lights. Monuments need regular edging in the lower, sunnier portion. At the edge of the newer section Ron C. recently installed a new bluebird house at a corner marker. Ron C. and Cheryl S. described the extent of the cemetery's boundaries. Much of the unused portion is currently farmed by Wes Davis, although there are also large grassy portions near the road turn-around and exit to the Town-owned land. Cheryl S. pointed out the slope where she hoped to have a cremation-only burial area (which would require surveying, committee buy-in, etc.) At the tree line near the exit to Town-owned land, we viewed a partial pallet of corner; the ones marked "S" are for the Schoolcraft family. Also viewed old segments of large cut tree, and fill dirt, in same location. Ron Craig plans to mow the grass along the exit if Corrections crew does not do so soon; Wes Davis had previously expressed that would be helpful to him too.

Next planned graveside service will be Friday, May 29, 2020. No one knew whether there would be the usual Memorial Day service at war memorial Green in light of covid19 concerns.

Adjourned about 10:00 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Annette Lorraine