

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE



THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE was established in 1991 to advise the Town on the operation, maintenance and preservation of Jaffrey's public cemeteries: Conant Cemetery, The Old Burying Ground, Cutter Cemetery, Phillips-Heil Cemetery and the Village (Baptist) Cemetery (inactive). It is composed of representatives of the local chapters of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Historical Society, Cournoyer Funeral Home, the Board of Selectmen and three appointed Members at Large. Town employees Randy Heglin, Rick Forcier and Peachie Chalke assist the Committee in its work.

CEMETERY STATISTICS FOR 2004

<u>Available Lots:</u>	<u>Conant</u>	<u>Phillips</u>	<u>Phillips-Heil</u>	<u>Cutter</u>	<u>Old Burying Ground</u>
Burial (double)	359	0	87	0	0
Cremation	23	21	30	0	0
<u>Sale of Lots:</u>					
Burial (double)	0	0	0	0	0
Burial (single)	2	0	0	0	0
Cremation	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Burials:</u>					
Full	5	1	0	1	1
Cremation	3	1	0	0	3
Disinterment	0	0	0	0	0

During 2004 the Committee met nine times with Town staff to discuss operation, budget and maintenance issues. It also inspected all of Jaffrey's cemeteries. Each cemetery is overseen by a member of the Committee. This oversight involves inspecting the cemetery from time to time and reporting on conditions and problems at Committee meetings.

John D. Field replaced Alan Cote as the representative of the American Legion and the V.F.W. The Committee thanks Alan for his service and welcomes John.

The Committee has completed its review of the Jaffrey's *Cemetery Rules and Regulations* and at the start of 2005 has recommended significant changes to the Selectmen.

In the fall of 2004 the Kaufhold Family Memorials & Stone Works of Peterborough repaired a total of 50 gravestones in Conant and The Old Burying Ground. Repairs ranged from stone straightening to crack sealing, bracing and mortar work. The source of funds for this restoration work was the special trust fund that has been added to at recent Town Meetings. Stone straightening was also done by volunteers in the Old Burying Ground. Another major volunteer undertaking was the scraping and painting of the cast iron fence at Cutter Cemetery.

The Committee's most ambitious undertaking in recent years has been its involvement in the expansion of Cutter Cemetery into an adjoining 1.5 acre open lot. The acquisition of the site was overwhelmingly approved at last year's Town Meeting, 69% of the \$79,000 cost being raised by individuals, organizations and commissions, the remainder by the Town. In the coming year a survey will be undertaken which will allow the commencement of lot sales.

The Committee looks forward in 2005 to 1) advising on the implementation of the revised *Cemetery Rules & Regulations* and developing a pamphlet summarizing them; 2) continuing the expansion and improvement of cemetery record keeping; 3) arranging and overseeing a restoration by volunteers of the fencing around John Conant's grave at the cemetery named for him; 4) establishing a new annual tradition by offering an Autumn cemetery tour; and 5) advising on the planning and development of the Cutter Extension.

For front matter of Town Report:

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Donald Cramb, Member at Large (Conant Overseer)	Term expires 2007
Cynthia Hamilton, Member at Large (Cutter Overseer)	Term expires 2007
Priscilla Palmer, Member at Large (Phillips-Heil Overseer)	Term expires 2006
Randy Cournoyer	Cournoyer Funeral Home
John D. Field	{ American Legion Representative
	{ V.F.W. Representative
Robert B. Stephenson (Old Burying Ground Overseer)	Historical Society Representative
Michael C. Barlick	Selectmen's Representative

NOTE: Because of space we are not including names in the main entry.