

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, The Old Burying Ground, Cutter, Cutter Extension and Phillips-Heil (also the inactive cemeteries, Village and Smallpox). It is composed of representatives 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 Doug Starr, Rick Forcier and Peachie Chalke assist the Committee in its work.

CEMETERY STATISTICS FOR 2006

| Available Lots: | Conant | Phillips | Phillips Heil | Cutter | Cutter Extension | Old Burying Ground |
|----------------------|--------|----------|------------------|--------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Burial (double) | 358 | 0 | 81 | 0 | 33* | 0 |
| Cremation | 23 | 21 | 30 | 0 | 134* | 0 |
| <u>Sale of Lots:</u> | | | | | | |
| Burial (double) | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Burial (single) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cremation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <u>Burials:</u> | | | | | | |
| Full | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cremation | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Disinterment | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Section I only. Will be available for sale in 2007.

During 2006 the Committee met seven 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.

The Committee and the Department of Public Works were pleased to issue in 2006 *A Guide to the Public Cemeteries of Jaffrey*, a brochure that summarizes the Town's cemetery rules and regulations and answers some of the questions that are most often asked by residents. Free copies are available at the Town Office.

In the Fall, resetting and straightening of head- and footstones and lot curbing and some stone repair in the Old Burying Ground, Cutter, Conant and Phillips was undertaken by the Kaufhold Family Memorials & Stone Works of Peterborough. Stone straightening was also done by volunteers in the Old Burying Ground.

Another volunteer effort by members of the Committee and Town staff was the summer start on the restoration of the iron fencing surrounding John Conant's grave at the cemetery named for him. Two sections were scraped and painted.

The first section of Cutter Cemetery Extension has been delineated and a portion of the roadway has been constructed. Once further survey bounds have been placed this spring, lot sales can commence. Those interested should contact the Department of Public Works for details.

A new wood entrance gate for the Old Burying Ground was constructed and installed by Andy Webber who kindly donated his labor and the materials.

On November 2nd the Committee and Public Works staff visited all cemeteries and removed all unauthorized materials from gravesites. This was preceded by newspaper advertisements and signs posted at each cemetery. This is now done annually after October 31st.

The Committee looks forward in 2007 to 1) improving cemetery record keeping including computerization; 2) continuing the restoration of the iron fencing around John Conant's grave; and 3) finding ways and means to remove several aged trees posing a hazard in the Old Burying Ground and to maintain and replace trees in the Town's other cemeteries.

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 2009 |
| Randyl Cournoyer | Cournoyer Funeral Home |
| John D. Field | { American Legion Representative |
| | { V.F.W. Representative |
| Robert B. Stephenson (Old Burying Ground Overseer) | Historical Society Representative |
| Franklin W. Sterling | Selectmen's Representative |

NOTE: Because of space we've not included names in the main entry.