

## 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 Randy Heglin, Rick Forcier and Peachie Chalke assist the Committee in its work.

### CEMETERY STATISTICS FOR 2007

Available Lots:	Conant	Phillips	Phillips Heil	Cutter	Cutter Extension	Old Burying Ground
Burial (double)	355	0	80	0	29*	0
Cremation	23	21	30	0	131*	0
<u>Sale of Lots:</u>						
Burial (double)	1	0	1	0	0	0
Burial (single)	2	0	0	0	6	0
Cremation	0	0	0	0	3	0
<u>Burials:</u>						
Full	4	0	2	2	1	0
Cremation	5	1	1	4	0	3
Disinterment	0	0	0	0	0	0

\*Section I only.

During 2007 the Committee met eight times with Town staff to discuss operation, budget and maintenance issues, to participate in work sessions or to undertake inspections and cleanups. 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.

At the 2007 Town Meeting, an article to establish a Cemetery Trees Fund with an initial appropriation of \$5,000 was passed overwhelmingly. A similar article is expected this year. Private tax-deductible donations are very welcomed; to date a total of \$500 has been received.

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



Phase II of the volunteer effort of restoring the iron fencing surrounding John Conant's grave at the cemetery named for him was undertaken by members of the Committee and Town staff. Three sections were scraped and painted. With luck this project will be completed in another two years. Anyone wishing to help out for a two- or three-hour work session should contact a member of the Committee. (The photo shows volunteers Paul St. Pierre, Doug Starr and Cynthia Hamilton working on the fence.)

Gravesites in the first section of Cutter Cemetery Extension became available for sale in 2007. Nine lots have been sold and one burial—the first—has occurred and the first monument erected.

On November 29th 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.

Residents and lot owners are reminded that the Town's *Cemetery Rules & Regulations* and *A Guide to the Public Cemeteries of Jaffrey* are available from the Department of Public Works and on the Town website at <http://town.jaffrey.nh.us>.

During 2007 the Town lost its dedicated and long-time Cemetery Committee member Priscilla Palmer. Her participation will be missed.

The Committee looks forward in 2008 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)  
Cynthia Hamilton, Member at Large (Cutter Overseer)  
Vacancy, Member at Large  
Randyl Cournoyer  
John D. Field

Robert B. Stephenson (Old Burying Ground Overseer)  
Franklin W. Sterling

Term expires 2010  
Term expires 2010

Cournoyer Funeral Home  
{ American Legion Representative  
{ V.F.W. Representative  
Historical Society Representative  
Selectmen's Representative

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