

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 up to five appointed Members at Large. Town employees Randy Heglin, Rick Forcier and Peachie Chalke assist the Committee in its work. A new resolution setting out the charge of the Committee was adopted by the Selectmen in April and is on the Committee's page on the Town's website.

CEMETERY STATISTICS FOR 2009

Available Lots:	Conant	Phillips	Phillips-Heil	Cutter	Cutter Extension	Old Burying Ground
Burial (double)	352	0	80	0	29*	0
Cremation	22	21	30	0	131*	0
<u>Sale of Lots:</u>						
Burial (double)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burial (single)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cremation	1	3	0	0	0	0
<u>Burials:</u>						
Full	7	0	0	1	0	0
Cremation	10	2	1	1	0	3
Disinterment	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Section I only.

During 2009 the Committee met five 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.

All of the Town's cemeteries suffered as a consequence of the December 2008 ice storm. Damage was surprisingly modest (3 broken headstones), but the boundary fence at Conant was crushed in places by falling trees and extensive debris was found throughout all cemeteries. The Town did an excellent job of cleaning this all up well in advance of Memorial Day.

In the spring the Committee met with the Town's new contractor—Katsura Landscaping (Aaron Abitz)—which is responsible for grass cutting and grounds maintenance at all the cemeteries. Looking back over the past season, the Committee has been very pleased with the quality and timeliness of the contractor's work.

A Cemetery Trees Fund was established at the 2007 Town Meeting. At last year's Town Meeting, \$3,000 was added to fund. (In addition \$500 in private contributions have been received.) \$1,775 was expended during 2009 to pay for extensive pruning and cabling in Phillips and Cutter cemeteries. The Committee hopes that major work in the Old Burying Ground will be undertaken soon.

Minor gravestone repairs were done in Conant, Cutter, Old Burying Ground and Phillips as was stone straightening, mainly in the Old Burying Ground. As all this was done by volunteers nothing was expended from the Gravestone Restoration Trust Fund in 2009.

The entrance gate at Village Cemetery, on Turnpike Road, was re-built by Andy Webber as a gift to the town. The gate, fencing and hearse house will all need painting soon. Interested volunteers are eagerly sought.

Phase IV 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 others. Two sections were scraped and painted. This project is approximately at the half-way point. The goal in 2010 is to complete another two sections. Anyone wishing to help out for a two- or three-hour work session should contact a member of the Committee.

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>. The Cemetery Committee now has a page on the site under Town Government, Committees/Commissions. More content will be added during 2010.

An exciting project was launched this past year through the combined efforts of the Monadnock and Dublin Garden Clubs. In observance of the Garden Club of America's centennial in 2013, these two garden clubs are taking on Cutter Cemetery as a project. The intention is to enhance this cemetery's distinctive sugar maple allees. Trees that have long gone would be replaced and cuttings would be propagated for future use. The clubs have been successful in raising funds for trees and the Committee is appreciative of their efforts and looks forward to admiring the results. Information on this several-year project should appear on the Committee's website during 2010.

The Committee thanks those volunteers who have shown an interest in Jaffrey's cemeteries by devoting their time and attention to their care and maintenance over the past year.

For front matter of Town Report:

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Donald Cramb, Member at Large (Conant Overseer)	Term expires 2010
Cynthia Hamilton, Member at Large (Cutter Overseer)	Term expires 2010
Thomas Rothermel, Member at Large (Phillips-Heil Overseer)	Term expires 2011
Kevin Sterling, Member at Large	Term expires 2012
Vacant, Member at Large	
Randyl Cournoyer	Cournoyer Funeral Home
Vacant	{ American Legion Representative
	{ V.F.W. Representative
Robert B. Stephenson (Old Burying Ground Overseer)	Historical Society Representative
Donald MacIsaac	Selectmen's Representative