

CEMETERY COMMISSION

Although Renate Oliver retired after serving many years as commissioner, she continues her interest and is in the process of designing a scatter garden for Old Cemetery. Judy Hatch was elected to replace her.

Fifteen interments were made during 2003 and several lots were sold in Old Cemetery. Remember that each lot must have a permanent corner marker and that the owner is responsible for installation.

Several ways to better serve the people who visit the cemeteries have been brought to our attention. These include having water at each cemetery, extending the road in Old Cemetery, and putting loam on the hill in Prospect Cemetery. We plan to place a plastic water barrel in Prospect Cemetery during warm weather to be used in caring for plants and flowers. Presently, there is a water barrel in Old Cemetery that belongs to the Historical Society. Hopefully the road in Old Cemetery will be extended this coming summer. The loam from this area will be used to dress part of the hill in Prospect Cemetery.

Due to budget cuts, the highway department no longer empties the trash barrels so the Commissioners have been emptying them as needed. Because of this we would appreciate it if you would only use the barrels to dispose of refuse such as old decorations, plants, flowers, and clippings from shrubs. Whole containers and dirt from them should be dumped separately outside the barrel. This would be picked up when the barrels are emptied. Rubbish thrown into the woods or over the fence lands on someone else's property. Volunteers are invited to help us pick this stuff up because the neighbors do not appreciate the mess. We would be grateful if individuals would maintain the gravesites and remove all winter decorations from the graves by April 15 in preparation for redecoration for Memorial Day.

The highway department notified us that they would only be mowing the lawns every other week during the growing season. This amount of grass cutting should be sufficient to keep the cemeteries well kept. They also stated that they would no longer be trimming around the stones. Perhaps some of you could adopt an area in one of the cemeteries to help keep them looking neat.

The Historical Society has done a considerable amount of work in Old Cemetery during the past several years and plan to continue working in the older section. So far they have cleaned and repaired 800 of the 1052 stones. We voted to allow them to re-grade in front of the tomb to divert water away from the entrance and repair the masonry. They hope to repair the statue as well. All of the work will be done with money from the Community Preservation Act Committee.

CEMETERY COMMISSION P2

The commissioners hold quarterly meetings on the second Tuesday of January, April, July, and October at 7:30 pm in the Melville Room at the Town Hall. They can be reached at this time, or by calling 566-2204 and leaving a message. They can also be reached at their home numbers listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Hank Dunwoody 566-3357, David Quill 566-3552, Judy Hatch 566-3963