

2009 Report to The Town Of Walpole From The Trustees of The Cemeteries

The Cemetery Trustees are Connie Adams (2011), Pam Howard (2012), and Paul Massicotte (2010). Throughout the year of 2009, the trustees met formally in April, May, July, and September. The Annual Meeting was held on November 6, 2009 at the Town Hall. We also met in June for our annual early season walking tour of the cemeteries in our charge: Old Cemetery, Village Cemetery, New Cemetery (all located off North Road in the village of Walpole), Drewsville Cemetery, and Carpenter Hill Cemetery. This is a time to assess the general condition of these burial grounds, to make note of winter damage that may need attention and to renew our commitment to their preservation. In addition to these meetings we have been at the cemeteries, together or separately, on numerous occasions to review conditions and/or address the concerns of lot owners. We have also spent a significant number of hours at the Town Office working to review cemetery records and update where necessary.

Two major projects were in the works over the summer in 2009. One was the beginning of a repair and restoration project in the Drewsville Cemetery. For this work we again contracted with E.H. Clegg & Co. of Morrisville, Vermont. Budget constraints made it impossible to complete the entire project, but it was a good start and work well done. We look forward to being able to continue it in 2010.

The other major project was something of an emergency when tree removal experts advised us that a huge pine tree in the Drewsville Cemetery (one which we had been watching for several years) had reached a condition that made it a serious threat to the preservation of the cemetery. Chris Ricci was hired to remove the tree and to clean up the debris. He and his crew not only made short work of an onerous project, but also left little evidence (other than the absence of the menacing tree) that they had ever been there.

Again this year we encourage everyone who enters the cemeteries to read the signs at the entrances and to abide by the rules set forth there. Your cooperation in respect to the rules regarding placement and removal of floral displays and decorations make the job of upkeep on these grounds easier and safer.

We wish to make special note of our thanks to groups and individuals who have supported our work this year. Thanks to Jim Terrell and his department for being always willing to help us out with the "heavy lifting." Thanks to Jim and Bev Corey who kept the cemeteries neatly trimmed and kept us informed about potential problems. Thanks to the Selectboard for listening to our concerns and helping us deal with them. And finally, as always, we are most grateful to the staff at the Town Hall for all they do to assist and encourage us.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Adams, Chair