

OWLS HEAD CEMETERY COMMITTEE

There have been some changes to the Cemetery Committee this past year. Andrew Carpenter submitted his resignation and Dan Clough requested a leave of absence. We miss their advice and help and hope that Dan will be able to return as an active member soon. Walter Guptill, our newest member, has stepped in to fill the void and has been very active. Through the years, working closely with Joe Ferannini, the noted restorer of Gravestone Matters, Walter has been involved with the restoration of several nearby cemeteries. He has also taken on other projects, usually involving genealogy, when he has had the time. He is a welcome addition to our Committee. True to form, Walter volunteered to head up a project with Melissa Boggs and her Oceanside middle school students to, among other things, help document our cemeteries so that information can be accessed online. While that, as well as getting new generations interested in cemeteries, are the ultimate goals, the students are probably more interested in a field trip to Hall Cemetery and some hands-on experiences.

The Committee received approval from the Selectmen this past fall to renovate MacPhail's Cemetery (behind Hall Cemetery). You might have read about this in a very nice article by Beth Birmingham in the Village Soup last fall. We haven't gotten a schedule from Joe Ferannini yet but anticipate that he will fit us in later this summer or fall. The money for this project will come from the new Cemetery Reserve Account that the Town voted on at last summer's Town Meeting.

The legalities for the Town to pursue the acquisition of the Ancient Burial Ground of Rose Hill (aka Addition) Cemetery have been met and the warrant article will be presented for the Town's acceptance at the summer Town Meeting. The Cemetery Committee looks forward to making that a restoration project in the near future.

Cooper's Beach Cemetery, off Oak Run, has new owners, Peter Schiot and Gail Ladd, who have taken an interest in restoring the cemetery. The Committee has offered to help them, and we also wish them good luck with their efforts.

A BIG thank-you goes out to Steve Cook for helping to remove the veteran's flags last fall and, again, along with Walter Guptill, for putting them out for Memorial Day this year. Another special thank-you for those who have donated in any manner and/or who have volunteered their time, advice, and efforts. We couldn't have done these things without you.

As always, we appreciate the work that Terry Morang does maintaining the cemeteries.

Respectfully submitted,

William Gay Michael Voncannon Walter Guptill

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