

Newington Historic District Commission – MINUTES

November 16, 2020, 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Old Town Hall

Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ Jo Haskell Alternate (2023) √ John Lamson Member (2021) √ Peggy Lamson Member (2023) √ Mike Marconi Member (2020) Katie Moody Alternate (2023) √ Lulu Pickering Member (2023) √ Kristen Poulin Alternate (2023) √ Becky St. Germaine Alternate (2023) √ Alan Wilson Member (2022)
Approve minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved minutes of October 13, 2020 • Motion by Peggy Lamson, seconded by Becky St. Germaine, approved by 7 members, Mike Marconi abstained because he was not at the meeting.
2020 budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,300 has been on hold by Selectmen, may be released soon • Motion by Peggy Lamson, seconded by Alan Wilson, unanimous approval to expend the remaining money once available to purchase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Historical archive boxes and materials ○ Produce more historic wall hangings for hanging in town buildings
2021 budget	<p>HDC budget was discussed with the selectmen on Oct. 26th:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$3,000 special project \$1,000 document processing and archiving \$ 500 artifacts and Historic Newington hangings \$ 300 operating expenses <p>Motion by John Lamson, seconded by Peggy Lamson, unanimous approval to request the Selectmen address the following work requests in the historic district in their 2021 budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cemetery tree cutting/planting as requested for last two years ○ Old Parsonage electrical outlets inside and outside, requested last year ○ Old Parsonage rodent problem, requested 2 years running ○ Old Town Hall Internet/telephone services, requested last year ○ Old Stone School rodent problem and outside wood trim painting
General Sullivan Bridge, Railroad Depot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State currently proposes selling the entire lot. • Selectmen are holding a meeting with representatives on November 16th at 4:00 pm to discuss options.

Old Parsonage	<p>Eversource historic mitigation funds for use in the historic district (attachment).</p> <p>Motion by John Lamson, seconded by Jo Haskell, approved by 7 members (Mike Marconi thought was reasonable but abstained until he discusses with the other selectmen) to request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Selectmen expend the \$20,000 of Eversource money to install a modern HVAC system that is heat pump-based in the Old Parsonage to make that building more useable. • The units should be floor mounted, not wall mounted, and installed in the downstairs dining room, kitchen, and parlor. • The work should include any necessary upgrades to the electrical panel to make everything code compliant. Savings could be obtained if the other electrical work to install additional outlets inside and outside the building is included in the same bid.
New Parsonage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selectmen declined the offer from the church to purchase the property (2019? 2020?) • Listed for sale by Bean Group late October 2020, sale pending within 2 weeks • Discussed potential impacts to Historic District, introduced Historic Zoning Regulations, discussed the need to establish review procedure for applicants to present proposals before the HDC, more will be done in 2021
Coleman water fountain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research shows the fountain belongs to the Town, not the Library (attachment). The top of the fountain is in the Schoolhouse Museum in the Old Town Hall. • During the September site walk for a new bike path, folks discussed making the bike path a straight line across the library and church lawns, in which case the fountain may need to be moved. • The HDC has a lot on its plate and the library wants to work on the fountain now. • On a motion by John Lamson, seconded by Peggy Lamson, unanimous approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ It was decided the library trustees can sandblast, prime and paint the fountain. ◦ The fountain needs a new foundation and should be located outside the spray of the lawn water sprinklers.
Shattuck Lot	<p>CLG historic resources oversight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are some beautiful stone features on this lot (attachment). • The HDC is interested in identifying and speaking with the new owners to see whether the stones will be preserved or, if not, can they be donated to the town for use in rebuilding stone walls.
Historic preservation award	<p>Public outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2019, Maxine Pottier raised the issue of establishing an Historic Preservation Award of some type to recognize preservation efforts for local historic properties. • The HDC is interested in following through on the award. • Preliminary discussions were to design a small bronze plaque that could be saved by the family as a keepsake or could be mounted on the outside of the building. Similar plaques are used by LCHIP awardees. Rye Historical Society uses wooden plaques that need to be painted and maintained.

Newington Historical Society activities

Newington Historical Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A motion by John Lamson, seconded by Mike Marconi, for the HDC to continue to support the activities of the Newington Historical Society, had unanimous approval. These activities are in the best interests of the town and fall under the public outreach mission of the HDC. Recent Newington Historical Society projects have included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fall decorations in the Old Town Center Holiday decorations in the Old Town Center Year-end bonfire to take place on Sunday December 20th
Newington school students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kristen Poulin reported on her discussion with the principal of Newington Public School about incorporating Newington's rich history into some type of school program in 2021. Principal Latchaw thought that something could be included for grades 3, 4, 5, and 6, perhaps as early as this spring. Ideas of possible history programs included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> walking tour for 4-centuries of Newington history walking tour in the cemetery to introduce some of Newington's notable citizens, events, and families information about slavery in Newington once that project is fully researched Rye historical Society has an app for walking tours in that town.
Graves outside the cemetery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No CLG grant application was filed for 2021. Discussed the project with Mark Doperalski (State Archaeologist) and David Trubey (Div. Historic Resources Archaeologist). They suggested we speak with Jesse Cofelice of Independent Archaeological Consulting in Portsmouth due to her expertise in burials. Jesse submitted a proposal (\$2,930 attachment) to (1) look closer at 1-3 potential graves outside the cemetery and (2) to determine whether any stones are beneath the sod inside the cemetery (closest to the meetinghouse, where there are no stones but likely burials). The cemetery timeline (attachment) indicates that graves on the south and southwest side of the meetinghouse could have been forgotten during the years between 1716 (when the burying ground was laid out) and 1884 (when the first cemetery fence was added). With no grant money available, the Newington Historical Society is a possibility for funding this proposal. Mike Marconi floated the idea of a \$5,000 warrant article to fund the archaeological study and to begin work to create the proposed memorial garden across from the horsesheds. A motion by John Lamson, seconded by Peggy Lamson, with unanimous approval is for the selectmen to include such an article in next year's warrant.

Lulu Pickering
HDC Member
December 8, 2020

Eversource
\$20,000

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Docket No. 2015-04

Application of Public Service Company of New Hampshire
d/b/a Eversource Energy for Certificate of Site and Facility

DECISION AND ORDER GRANTING APPLICATION
FOR CERTIFICATE OF SITE AND FACILITY

January 31, 2019

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Corps of Engineers entered into the Memorandum of Agreement addressing the Project's impact on the District. The Applicant agreed to: (i) fund and oversee completion of a Historic American Engineering Record; (ii) fund and oversee the relocation and rehabilitation of the Durham side cable terminal house; (iii) fund and install interpretive signage at Fox Point to interpret the historical and engineering/technological significance of the District; and (iv) fund and oversee the development of two identical interpretive displays, one each for the towns of Durham and Newington to convey the historical and engineering significance of the District. App. 200, Appx. A, at 1-3. DHR and the US Army Corps of Engineers agree that implementation of the proposed mitigation measures demonstrate that the agencies have taken into account the effects of the Project on historic properties.

As to the impact on the historic Alfred Pickering Farm, the Applicant agrees to use a steel H-frame structure on the property. App. 200, at 2. The Applicant also agrees to publish a publicly oriented booklet that will provide a brief history of agriculture in Newington from its founding to the present highlighting different agricultural periods or trends over time, an architectural guide to the styles and types of farm houses and agricultural outbuildings in the community, and a brief overview of no more than 20 individual farms extant in Newington as of 2018. App. 200, at 2. Finally, the Applicant agrees to conduct a public presentation in the Town of Newington to celebrate Newington's agricultural history. App. 200, at 2.

The Subcommittee received many public comments indicating that publishing of the booklet will not mitigate the Project's impact where a similar booklet was published before and not a lot of people demonstrated interest in reviewing it. The Subcommittee also received testimony indicating that the owner of the Alfred Pickering Farm refused to mitigate impacts on the farm by improving historic qualities of the farm and indicated that any mitigation measures

Eversource
\$20,000

should be focused on the Newington Historic District. The Town identifies the preferred mitigation measures as undergrounding of the Project, refurbishing of the building's exterior of Old Stone School, repairs of Old Parsonage's and Meeting House's chimneys, tree planting to provide shade for enjoyment of people, forest management, and etc. App. 248. As discussed above, the Subcommittee will not require the Applicant to employ a method of construction without an understanding of the impacts. The Applicant does not have property rights to bury the Project at the Alfred Pickering Farm and the property owner refuses to cooperate with the Applicant. Counsel for the Public's expert testified that it is customary to mitigate the impact on historic properties by enhancing the value of other property or conducting educational sessions. The Subcommittee does not have sufficient information to determine if the mitigation measures requested by the Town will contribute to character defining historic features of the Newington Center Historic District and/or the Alfred Pickering Farm. The Subcommittee finds it reasonable, in addition to the mitigation measures agreed to by the Applicant, to require the Applicant to pay to the Town of Newington \$20,000.00 to be used by the Town towards mitigating the impacts of the Project to historic sites in Newington. To ensure that the funds will be spent timely and in a manner that mitigates the Project's impact on the historic features of the Alfred Pickering Farm, the Town through its Board of Selectpersons, shall consult with DHR when selecting project(s) for these funds and shall spend these funds within five (5) years of receipt. The Town shall notify the Administrator of the date and subject of expenditures made from the funds provided by the Applicant.

DHA identified the number of impacted aboveground historic properties which the Applicant's expert originally failed to address. Following submission of the DHA's testimony, the Applicant's expert completed a thorough analysis of the Project's potential impact on these

Historic District Water Fountain, c1913

- *Newington Town Report, 1913* – “Total cost to install water system, \$1797.18; cash contributions (\$450); \$450.03 of donated labor and material; total cost to town of \$1,347.18.”
- *History of Rockingham County New Hampshire and Representative Citizens by Charles A. Hazlett, 1915, page 571* “In 1913, just 200 years since the town became a separate parish from Dover and Portsmouth, the people in town meeting, voted to give power to the selectmen to take water from the town spring to the public library, schoolhouse and town hall, giving others liberty to take water for the new parsonage. This vote was carried out and now by electric power water is forced to these buildings, a distance of over two thousand feet, at an elevation of sixty-four feet.

A public drinking fountain was placed between the library and parsonage. The foundation was the gift of James W. Coleman, Esq., a descendant of the sixth generation from Eleazer Coleman, living here 200 years ago. The cost of installing the water system was \$1,772, of which sum \$450 was contributed by private individuals.”

- *National Register Filing, 1987, Old Town Center* – Cast Iron Fountain, 1913. Contributing Object. Located on the east side of the green, just north of where the area is divided by a road is a cast iron fountain about 4 1/2 feet tall. Above a square base the circular basin is decorated by foliate forms. Originally this structure served as a horse watering fountain with a dog fountain on its lower level. It was piped to the springhouse located between the library and church (12A). Today it is used as a planter.

The fountain was given to the town in 1913 at a cost of \$1,772 of which \$450 was contributed by private individuals. Originally a shield decorated by a bird serving as a weathervane, sat atop a revolving silver ball. (29) Vandals destroyed parts of the shield; remaining pieces are located in the Old Parsonage Museum.

Lara Berry, Med, Director, Langdon Public Library
October 20, 2020

The library trustees have asked me to extend an offer to repair and repaint the fountain/ urn in front of the library. I'm attaching photos so you can see why this is an area of concern. We covered it last winter and will continue to do so to attempt to prevent further damage, but we think it would be nice to rehabilitate it this fall to have it looking its best before the safety lane is put in and put to use. I hope you'll discuss this at your next meeting and let me know if this is amenable to you. If you'd like, one of us can attend and participate in the discussion.





The stone work in various parts of the Shackford lot is beautiful. This wall crosses a stream. It does not appear to be part of a building foundation. Does anyone know what its purpose was?



**Independent Archaeological
Consulting, LLC**
801 Islington Street Suite 31
Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801

GPR Anomaly Exploration
Town Cemetery
Newington, New Hampshire

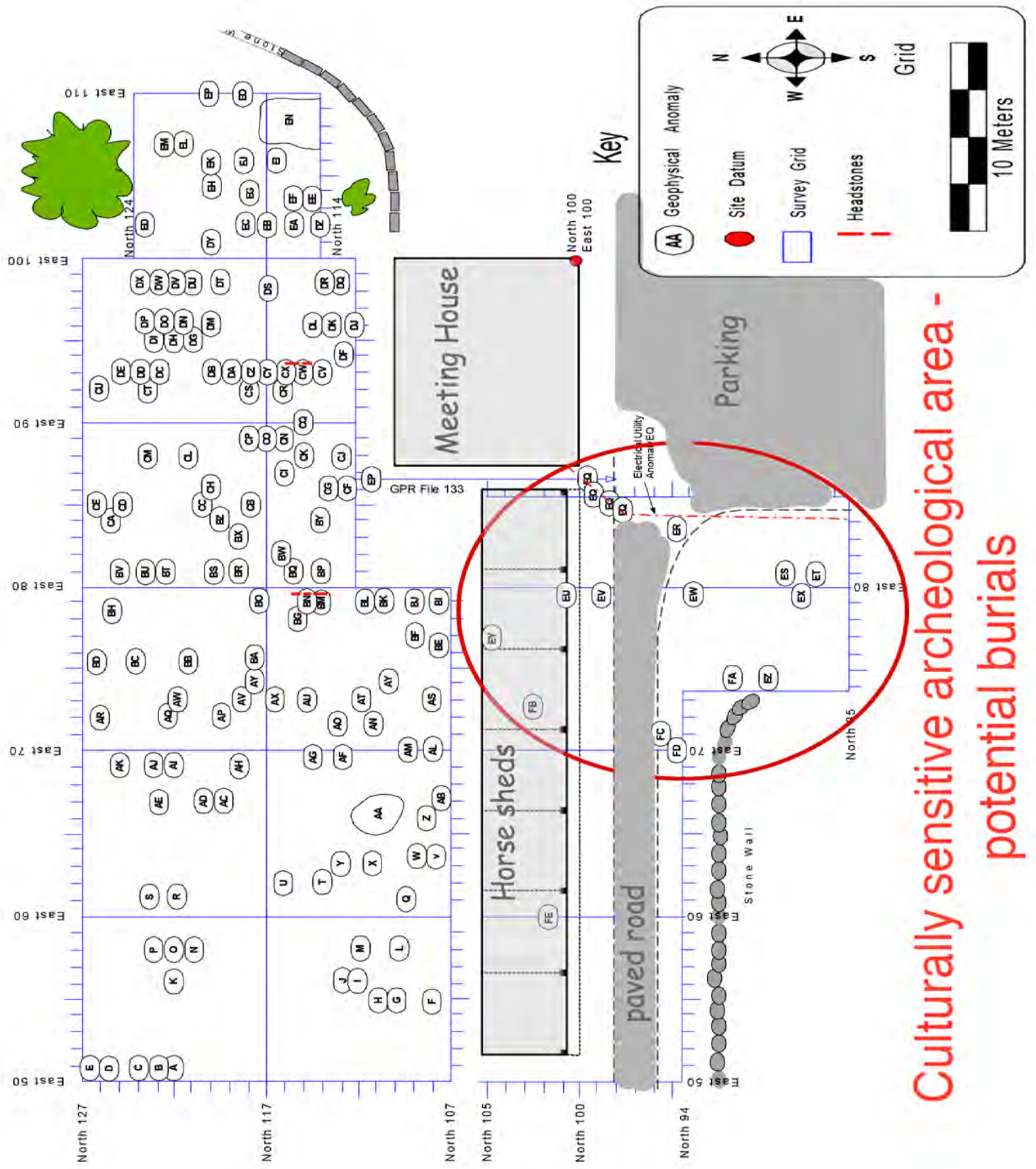
October 26, 2020

Objective: Confirm presence or absence of grave at location of GPR anomaly "EY"		# Hours	Hourly Rate	Total Cost
Fieldwork	Principal Investigator	16	\$95.00	\$ 1,520.00
Fieldwork	Archaeological Technician	8	\$50.00	\$ 400.00
Labwork/Analysis	Archaeological Technician	2	\$50.00	\$ 100.00
Report Preparation	Principal Investigator	8	\$95.00	\$ 760.00
Report Preparation	Archaeological Technician	2	\$50.00	\$ 100.00
Miscellaneous	Supplies, postage, photocopies	1	\$50.00	\$ 50.00
Total for GPR Anomaly Exploration				\$ 2,930.00

Jesse Cofelice, MA, RPA, Director and Principal Investigator, Independent Archaeological Consulting, LLC

It was great to speak with you today about the Newington Cemetery. Please find the attached proposal for your review.

- For our efforts, we propose to bisect GPR Anomaly "EY" with a hand excavated trench to confirm the presence or absence of a grave.
- The length, width and depth of the grave shaft will be dictated by existing conditions.
- I've put in a full day for three staff members, to allow extra time to probe the cleared area north of the Meeting House to see if we can find evidence of buried headstones or fieldstones.
- Also, in the event the EY results are inconclusive or if no grave is detected, I'd like to bisect a second anomaly. I was thinking either EU, EV or PC/PD (FC/FD?- lulu) – we can chat about this possibility.
- Upon completion of the project, we'll produce a brief report outlining our methodology, results and recommendations.
- In terms of scheduling, early Spring 2021 would be ideal – our field season is still in full swing and right now we're booked through the week of December 7th. If it's nice and the weather cooperates, it's possible we could complete the Newington Cemetery work the week of December 14th, I just can't make any guarantees. As long as we have a mild Spring, we're typically digging by late April (as long as the ground is thawed and the soil is dry enough for screening).



Culturally sensitive archeological area - potential burials

Cemetery Timeline

1640 Land that later became the town forest and old town center in Newington was reserved as common ground or unallotted lands for the settlers of Bloody Point, then part of Dover

1710 Dover Town Meeting on May 22, 1710 at the Dover Neck Meetinghouse votes to set aside 50-60 acres in Newington to be preserved from development and overuse

1716 Laid out a training field on the far side of the meeting house and a small piece for a burying ground [Newington Neighbor, Issue #145, 2005 pages 32 and 33].

1750 The Town voted to build its first schoolhouse at the corner of Little Bay and Greenland Road in a newly laid out "School House Lot" in what is now the northeast corner of the cemetery. It was a one room building that was built using part of the timber salvaged from the church steeple when it was struck by lightning in 1744. Before this building, students had attended school at the Meeting House after the Town voted to hire a schoolmaster in 1737.

Some time in these 150 years (1710-1867), the graves to the southwest of the meetinghouse were forgotten

1884 Voted that the Selectmen fence and grade the cemetery. E. T. Coleman, Supt. of Cemetery [Newington Neighbor, Issue #145, 2005 pages 32 and 33].

1885 The Selectmen were instructed to sell lots in the new extension of the cemetery to residents for \$1; former residents, \$3; non-residents, \$5. One lot to each person [Newington Neighbor, Issue #145, 2005 pages 32 and 33].

1867 The town gave William Rollins and others the privilege of erecting a horse shed at the westerly end of the meeting house and on the south side of the burying ground, the privilege to continue as long as they may keep the sheds in repair. The building committee had the privilege of removing the burying ground wall as far as the shed extended and to set the shed as far back as they could without disturbing the graves. (These sheds were blown down Thursday, July 27, 1893, and replaced with those now standing.) [Newington Neighbor, Issue #145, 2005 pages 32 and 33].

1893 Original gateway on the Eastern Division of the cemetery needs a driveway to the new Western Division.

1894 Article 10 Board of Cemetery Trustees created.

1900 substantial wall of split granite was built on the eastern side in 1900

1907 receiving tomb built

1914 work on the cemetery wall

1934 Article 7. To see if the town will vote to enlarge the cemetery and to clear the land; and to raise and appropriate money therefor.

1949 Cemetery Report – asphalt and tar on cemetery driveways.

- 1950 Town voted to enlarge the Town Cemetery 100 feet from the west end and raise \$1,000, for such purpose so far as it will go, to apply to the cost of clearing the land suitable for sale of cemetery lots. Work done by George L Beals next year to create the **Western Division Extension**.
- 1953 Article 9. To see if the town will vote to appropriate a sum of money to buy and erect a fence around and to enclose the extended area of the cemetery a distance of approximately 687 feet, as required by state law (not included in the Budget).
- 1954 Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money to buy and erect a fence around and to enclose the extended area of the cemetery a distance of approximately 687 feet, as included in the Budget.
- 1956 Cleaning off brush, stumps on land adjoining cemetery and bordering Bay Road after Sam Rowe's Hill was clear cut by the USAF.
- 1961 Article 11 Voted to establish a cemetery committee, which shall serve as a permanent committee to administer and supervise the business and affairs of the cemetery.
- 1964 Voted to reserve a section of land 350 feet long and 200 feet wide abutting the present Cemetery on the south side, to use for future expansion of the Cemetery. **"Cemetery Southern Division"**
- 1964 Article 6. Voted to authorize the Selectmen to accept ownership for the Town of the Horse Sheds behind the Meeting House once proper deeds are obtained from the present owners.
- 1974 Long wooden cemetery fence put up by Bob Knox for \$598.00. It extended along the southern and western boundaries. All post holes dug by hand! [Don Beals].
- 1978 Approved sum of \$4,500 for replacing the water lines in the Town Cemetery - from Revenue Sharing [Don Beals].
- 1979 Laying out lots in Southern Division completed [Don Beals].
- 2005 New granite post and chain fence constructed along the south and west sides of the cemetery. The total cost of replacing the earlier wooden fence was \$21,856.23, with \$10,325 from a Certified Local Government grant from the State and an additional \$3,722.50 in unpaid, in-kind donations.
- 2005 Larry Haas and Eric Hall renovated the horsesheds by the Town Meeting House. The bents were straightened, posts leveled, new footers added., and some sheathing replaced. Wood shingles and small doors on the north side were replaced.
- 2011 Larry Haas of Paterson Lane contract for \$23,000 to add new wooden shingles to the sides of the horse sheds, new trim boards and staining.