

CEMETERY COMMISSION REPORT

Middlefield Cemetery Commissioners met 17 times during 1989, continuing reorganization and updating of Cemetery data. Maintenance of town cemeteries were delegated to Warren Ritter who has taken over from Edward Horelek, Jr. The price of cemetery plots went up from \$300 to \$500 beginning fiscal year 1990. New cemetery signs (replacing those vandalized and stolen) will be installed in the spring. Special thanks to Larry Pease, Commission Clerk who arranged to have these made, without charge to the town, by Camp Becket (Y.M.C.A.) campers last summer.

During 1989, your Commissioners undertook the task of updating the Pine Grove Cemetery map (necessitated because of vandalism at the school which destroyed much of the cemetery records a few years past). We are glad to report that an updated and computerized map will be available by fiscal year 1991 or earlier, thanks to the help of Town Cartographer, Cameron McQuaid. This computerized map will not only facilitate ease in choice of remaining lots for sale, it will accurately locate occupied grave sites as well as sites to be occupied for future burial plots already purchased.

The Commissioners have also announced that no flowers in glass containers of any kind will be allowed in any of the Town Cemeteries, due to the new strict recycling regulations. Flowers may be planted, or, placed in clay pots or plastic containers, however.

Notices have been sent to all those who have balances due on cemetery plots. These must be paid in full by fiscal year, July 1, 1990, (earlier would be appreciated!). Those delinquent in payment may appeal to the Commission for alternate methods of payment. Otherwise, all delinquent accounts on unpaid or partially paid cemetery plots will revert to the town and will be put up for sale as of July 1, 1990.

In addition, your Commissioners have undertaken a long-range plan to inventory all of our town cemeteries (the last and only statewide inventory of cemeteries was done in the 1930's, under the aegis of the Daughters of the American Revolution). We strongly believe that such an inventory is a requisite in record keeping, an important adjunct to the history of Middlefield. More on this in the near future. We will need help from interested citizens, other town officials, and the Historical Commission!

Finally, thanks to all of you who have supported us in our efforts to keep our cemeteries in good order; your suggestions (and complaints) are duly noted and acted upon.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Burnham, Chair
Larry Pease
Neil Nickerson
CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS

