

NYQM Cemetery Committee
Report to New York Quarterly Meeting
July 15 2017

The cemetery committee has been involved in several major projects this year.

We have had new cement roadway ribbons installed from the shed, where the lower ribbons ended, to the top of the hill. The work included excavation of the roadway bed and removal of old asphalt, bricks, and other rubbish, and its replacement with crushed rock. This work is intended to reduce or eliminate hillside erosion and has been completed.

Work is nearly complete on the cemetery software project. The data has been entered, and the survey work has been completed. The next phase involves integrating these two aspects of the project. We also hope to include, at some future time, information on payments for gravesites into the data base.

Our third major project has been to purchase a golf cart for use in the cemetery. We have had a concern for visitors with mobility issues. The purposes of the cart will include facilitating gravesite visitation and committal services, facilitating participation in Quarterly Meeting, and expediting the transportation of large or heavy items, including water, needed for cemetery maintenance. A new, smaller shed is also being installed as additional storage space is needed to accommodate the cart and our existing equipment.

We have instituted an "Open Saturdays" program to allow visitation to the cemetery without a specific appointment. The program is intended for members and attenders, not for the general public. It was reported to committee members that Friends did not like having to make a telephone call to schedule a cemetery visit, but the response to the program has been disappointing. So far we've had two open Saturdays: The first one, only some out of town friends, who had called, showed up and the second, it rained. We would like input from the NYQM community as to the value in continuing this offering, and if Friends would be willing to share in the necessary oversight of such a program by being gatekeepers on open Saturdays. If the program is continued we will re-evaluate it in the fall.

We had intended to hold another Memorial Meeting in early June but had to cancel due to uncertain weather.

The Prospect Park Alliance has continued to perform regular maintenance work but the contract has not yet been signed. A large tree fell across the entry drive and was removed. As in the previous two years we have also hired a seasonal worker and we are very pleased with her; she has an excellent botanical background.

There were three work days and one picnic in the cemetery.

There were two interments of ashes.

347 visitors signed in for cemetery events but the actual number of visitors is higher as not everyone signs in.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Owen & Suzanne W. Stout
Co-cClerks, NYQM Cemetery Committee