

**New York Quarterly Meeting  
Meeting with a Concern for Business  
July 13, 2019**

The cemetery committee meets monthly and has a full roster of 6 members (of whom 2 are new).

Events

We have had 1 workday in the last year since the Fall event was cancelled due to inclement weather and related safety concerns. We had a successful workday on April 27<sup>th</sup>, with enthusiastic participation from Brooklyn Friends School and Mary McDowell Friends School. 51 people signed in but more likely there were 80 or so workers throughout the day. Two tours were given with about 30 participants.

Brooklyn Monthly Meeting First Day School held a picnic in the cemetery; there were approximately 45 in attendance.

We have had two ashes interred in the Cemetery: Maureen and Alexander Burns, both on November 11, 2018.

Facilities

We continue to evaluate the proper remedy for storage, especially when it comes to the golf cart. The present shed in the back holds few supplies because of concerns about its ability to withstand vermin, weather, and being broken into.

We are considering creating needed space in the main garage by selling off the golf cart. It has been used just a few times in the couple of years that we have had it, and the Committee is concerned that it's taking up valuable space with little use for providing transportation around the cemetery for those with mobility issues. However, before selling the cart, the committee has agreed to raise it at the NYQM Meeting with a Concern for Business and see if more publicity about its availability increases usage.

Maintenance

The Prospect Park Alliance continues to perform routine maintenance, and we remain pleased with their work and communication with the committee. In addition, we have a contract with an addition worker to help out with the variety of upkeep needs. With all of the rain this spring and early summer, the cemetery has been a vibrant green bursting with plant life.

Availability and Outreach

The committee is motivated to providing greater access to the beauty and serenity of cemetery to Friends during our year of Jubilee. We are planning on opening up the cemetery to Friends on a Saturday sometime in the Fall (date tk). While previous open days were not well attended, we hope that a more concerted effort to publicize will create more enthusiasm amongst Friends and lead to an increased turnout.

We are also committing ourselves to greater outreach within the Quarter with each committee member taking on a wider array of roles to promote the cemetery and increase its visibility within each Monthly Meeting, and within the NYQM and NYYM.

In addition, we are discerning how the cemetery can play its part in fulfilling the Jubilee Year's themes of community-building, spiritual renewal and celebrating That of God in each other. We are looking to balance making the cemetery more inviting and welcoming to the larger community while ensuring it remains a spiritual haven where Friends can find safety, peace, and tranquility.

We look forward to getting to know each other, working together as a committee, and helping more NYQM Friends discover this special place.

Lastly, we would like to express our deep gratitude to Mary Owen for her invaluable years of service as she leaves the committee. She has left us an exemplary model of what it means to be a dedicated steward of the cemetery.

In Friendship,

Bryan Oettel, Clerk