

HILL WEST CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
Annual Report to the 2018 Montgomery Annual Town Meeting

Hill West Cemetery, located above West Hill Brook on West Hill Road, appears to date from about 1870, for the earliest date on a gravestone in the cemetery is 1871. It is located on town land, which was roughly doubled in size by a donation by Peter Watson in 1978. The current size of the cemetery is about 30,000 square feet, or about two-thirds of an acre.

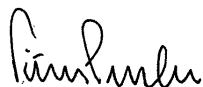
Lots in the Old Section are 10 feet by 20 feet, designed for four burials, while lots in the New Section are 10 feet by 10 feet, designed for two burials. There are 70 lots in the Old Section of the cemetery and 105 lots in the New Section of the cemetery, for a total of 175 lots. All the Old Section lots have been purchased. About 20 lots have been purchased in the New Section, and about 85 remain available. The current price of a lot is \$525, which includes the four required cornerstones that mark the boundary of the lot.

During the mid-20th century the cemetery fell into disrepair and became overgrown with shrubs and trees. In the 1960s members of the Jewett family undertook to clear the vegetation and restore the cemetery. A fence was erected and later replaced, a sign was erected and later replaced, and a utility shed was constructed.

The Hill West Cemetery Association was established to administer the cemetery on behalf of the town. Bylaws were drafted and authorized in the 1960s, and the Association has ably administered the cemetery since that time. A notable recent burial in the cemetery was that of Douglas Jewett, longtime president of the Association, who died in July 2017 at age 89. The Association gives thanks for his life and decades-long service to the Association. The Association holds an annual meeting each June, and the agendas and minutes of all meetings are publicly posted on the town bulletin boards and website in accordance with the Open Meeting Law.

The 2017 Annual Meeting was held on June 27 at the home of Douglas and Irene Jewett in Richford. The meeting: reviewed the membership list; endorsed Nancy Lumbrá's project to compile an electronic record of all plot assignments; opposed a proposed consolidation of all town cemeteries under a single commission; reviewed finances; and discussed a proposed revision of the Bylaws and Rules. Officers elected were: President, Jeffrey Jewett; Vice President, Earl Lumbrá; Clerk, Titus L. Presler; Treasurer, Nancy Lumbrá; and Trustees: Douglas Jewett (later deceased), Wayne Jewett, Gary Jewett, Earl Lumbrá, Michael Jewett, Titus L. Presler, and Nancy Lumbrá.

A Special Association Meeting was held on September 19 at the home of Earl and Nancy Lumbrá on Gibou Road in Montgomery with the sole agenda of acting on the proposed revision of the Bylaws and Rules. Major changes in the reorganized Bylaws included: inclusion of a statement of the purpose and auspices of the cemetery; more complete descriptions of officer positions and duties; more complete descriptions of the procedures for annual and special meetings; more complete descriptions of financial aspects and procedures. Major changes in the reorganized Rules included: incorporation of cornerstones in the cost of plots; specification of the number of caskets and cremains that may be placed in a plot; clarification of Association responsibilities; and clarification of membership in the Association. The revised Bylaws and Rules were approved unanimously and are available on the town website and at the Montgomery Town Office.



Titus L. Presler
Clerk