

HIGHLAND MEADOW CEMETERY BUILDING COMMITTEE

We are deeply grateful for the efforts of Cemetery Superintendent Robert Gardiner, as well as Nancy Fay and Pat Bruschi who helped coordinate the contract documents on behalf of the Town.

The Committee oversaw the completion of the bid documents for the construction of Highland Meadow Cemetery, awarding the contract to Green Acres Landscape Company of Lakeville, Massachusetts in August. Groundbreaking took place with a small ceremony on October 27, 2005.

The first effort was to clear the invasive species and begin to reclaim the Heart-Shaped Meadow. This work revealed some beautiful features, stone walls and entryways long covered by bittersweet, poison ivy and buckthorn. Specimen trees to be saved were labeled by the landscape architect, Halvorson Design Partnership. Preliminary grading and installation of the stone walls began in December with water line installation and road preparation well underway at year end.

The Committee worked to facilitate the mowing of the remainder of the Heart-Shaped Meadow and the Great Meadow, covered by Conservation Restrictions, with the McLean Land Management Committee. The results have been greatly lauded by open space advocates and The Trustees of Reservations.



The new Belmont Cemetery, Highland Meadow, begins to take shape

A request to eliminate the pedestrian pathway was made by the Belmont Day School administration. After soliciting opinions from the Belmont Neighborhood Association and other near neighbors and receiving no response, the Committee issued a change order to eliminate the pathway and relocate the planned rock wall to the property line.

The Committee welcomes comments from citizens and holds meetings as required, approximately once or twice monthly. Construction proceeds on schedule with expected completion in July/August of 2006.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Chairman
Karen Pressey, Alexander E. Corbett III, Charles R. Johnson