

Annual Report

Building and Grounds Committee

2019

Once again, a group of talented, hardworking members of Newtown Meeting have managed to accomplish repairs and improvements from which all of us benefit while in this wonderful old building and on the grounds around it.

Annual inspections by the Newtown Fire Department, the alarm company, of the fire extinguishers, of the boiler by the State of Pennsylvania, and of our water service by Newtown Water Company were accomplished with positive results.

Lighting and air circulation improvements in the worship space were accomplished by another committee member with much gratitude on the hot summer days when the quiet ceiling fans improved the comfort for all. LED lighting in new fixtures and elsewhere on the property make our energy use more acceptable. Covers on the thermostats prevent tampering with the settings which are programmed to return the heat to an energy saving level while still preventing freezing.

Our major project inside this year was refinishing the wood floors in the addition and cleaning our beautiful rugs. This required emptying the first floor of the addition into the Worship area before and returning it all afterwards. It impacted everyone because we had to close the Meetinghouse for worship and other activities for more than a week.

The annual trimming of our trees was accomplished. Despite this inspection, however, a huge limb blew off the sycamore at the west end of the building, damaging the roof and trim and the shutters on the first floor. This has recently been repaired after it was determined that we should get several more years out of our older roof. Wind also took down a shutter above the south porch which was repaired and rehung by committee members.

The garden along the north wall had become overgrown and unsightly so we contracted to have it removed and returned to grass

The posts on the porch of the addition had become rotten at the bottom and a committee member repaired them and the porch was repainted by volunteers.

The women of the graveyard subcommittee have continued their fine work to determine that records are correct and have determined that gravesites assigned many years ago will not be used by those families and may be reassigned as needs arise. 3 Burials, 3 Headstones and Foundations placed, 2 Engravings facilitating names and dates being added to existing

headstones, 1 purchase of an urn plot in Section III, 2 Administrative fees collected. These women made a presentation to First Day School, created a Memorial Minute notebook, presented to the committee over 40 unused plots to be taken back into the inventory of available plots and began meeting with members interested in purchasing a plot. They began entering names and information of those in the graveyard to Find-A-Grave.com, a public database of cemetery records. Presently there are 514 names listed on our Newtown Friends site. This year will be a celebration of the 200th year of the graveyard. These women will take every opportunity to learn about the lives of the people who are buried here as well as best practices used in other graveyards.

Our annual leaf rake in November was a great success made possible by a beautiful day and enough willing workers that we managed to finish by lunch time, a new record. We are grateful to George School for the use of their equipment and the woods as a dumping place.

We shared the responsibility with Care and Counsel for the homeless man who slept on our south porch for a few months and helped him move to warmer weather when our own weather got cold. The Newtown Police participated in helping with this relocation.

The ad hoc Playground Committee has finished their work of constructing an attractive and inviting play area for the children and our committee will now add maintenance of it to our job description. The ad hoc Parking Committee is still working on their assignment.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Burton, Clerk