

2020 Building & Grounds Annual Report -- Marj Burton

Annual inspections of the fire extinguishers, the boiler, and our water service were accomplished with positive results. Lighting and air circulation improvements in the worship space were made to improve the comfort for all. LED lighting in new fixtures and elsewhere on the property reduced our energy consumption. Covers on the thermostats prevent tampering and ensure that programmed settings return the heat to energy saving levels when the meeting house is not occupied. The wood floors in the addition were refinished and rugs cleaned. Volunteers also painted the porch of the addition.

The trees were trimmed and inspected. Despite that work, 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 and the roof inspected. Wind also took down a shutter above the south porch which was repaired and rehung. The garden along the north wall had become overgrown and unsightly so we had it removed and returned to grass

The graveyard subcommittee continued to verify records and has identified 40 unused plots that can be reassigned to members interested in purchasing a plot. There were 3 burials, 3 headstones and foundations installed, 2 engravings performed existing headstones, and 1 purchase of an urn plot. The subcommittee made a presentation to First Day School, created a Memorial Minute notebook, and began entering the names of those in the graveyard on the [FindAGrave.com](https://www.findagrave.com) website. Presently there are 514 names listed on our Newtown Friends site. This year will be a celebration of the 200th year of the graveyard.

Volunteers were able to complete the annual leaf rake by lunchtime this year. We are grateful to George School for the use of their equipment and a place to deposit the leaves.

The ad hoc Playground Committee has finished their work of constructing an attractive and inviting play area for the children and our committee will be responsible for its ongoing maintenance.