



Candidate Statement of Therese Mageau for Cemetery Commission

I am running for Cemetery Commission, a two-year term that would complete a vacated five-year term. I have a lifelong love of and fascination with town cemeteries. They are a community treasure that deserve to be cared for and preserved. Not only do they house the remains and memories of our loved ones, they are repositories of a community's history. Whenever my husband and I travel, I always seek out the town cemetery where you can distill from the gravestones so many important aspects of its past: How big was this town's participation in the Civil War? When did cholera and flu epidemics hit this community? What was maternal and infant mortality like in different eras? And in the special case of Central Vermont cemeteries, they serve as open-air museums to some of the country's finest granite artwork.

Recently my husband and I contacted Patrick Healy, the Director of Cemeteries, about a burial plot for ourselves. We were grateful for Mr Healy's expertise, his kindness, and his ability to listen to our needs and respond to them with creative and helpful ideas. We were impressed with the care that the Department of Cemeteries has taken of the two town burial grounds, the way it handled their care during Covid, and its plans for future care, including green burials.

So when I heard there was a chance to serve on the Commission in charge of the cemeteries' care and preservation, I knew I wanted to run for that open seat. I am relatively new to Montpelier, having moved here with my husband in 2016. I worked most of my career as an editor and consultant in educational publishing in New York City, retiring when we moved to Vermont. I have been a volunteer for the FEAST program at MSAC and am currently serving as the Vice President of the Board of Trustees of the T.W. Wood Gallery (another historic gem in this city). I would be honored if the citizens of Montpelier allowed me to also serve as a member of the Cemetery Commission.