

Waterbury Cemetery Commission Minutes

September 3, 2025, 4pm

Steele Community Room

Members present: John Woodruff, Jill Chase, Barbara Walton, Jan Gendreau, Robert Dostis and Tom Leitz

1. Minutes of Aug meeting approved as amended.

2. Financial Report **Tom Leitz**

We are \$20,000 under budget for contractors that can be used for cleaning additional head stones at Maple Street or other activities as needed. The funds need to be used within the year. Use of the funds will be discussed in upcoming meetings.

3. Old Business

a. Date for replacement stones in the Rte. 100 Cemetery is not final. The slate stone in the cemetery hasn't been reset as of this meeting and will be discussed at the next meeting.

b. John will ask Bill if downed trees at Loomis Hill were taken care of

c. Jan reported that the session with Adam for instructions on how to best trim bushes in the cemeteries is for 2 hours on Oct 20. The tree committee has been invited to attend.

d. The commission will meet 9/29 at 1:00 at the municipal center to take a tour of Loomis and Demeritt cemeteries. We plan to devise a rotating maintenance plan for all the non-active cemeteries.

4. New Business

a. Commission members will survey Hope, Maple St. Rte., 100 cemeteries before the October meeting to see what trees and shrubs need to be taken down or pruned in 2026, as well as what may need to be repaired, cleaned up, etc.

b. A discussion on questions that arose during John's time away that need to be addressed, included:

- Rates on website are incorrect, The rates posted on the website need to be changed concerning *grave lots*, their size and how many caskets they accommodate. It would seem a lot is what is for sale and a plot is a series of lots.
- Standard monument size
- Certificate of cremation/transit permits

- This all needs to be written in a simple understandable form.

Guidelines clarifications

The sequential burials will not take place in Maple St. until we're full up in the old section and need the new section.

Historic lots are not standard size. New lots will be.

A typical monument for a standard lot is three feet wide and about 6" deep.

Certificates of cremation or transit permits will be supplied to the town, usually from a funeral home, directed to Karen. No blank cremation certificates are necessary for us to fill out.

If cremains are to be added to a lot, the family can decide where within the lot they will be placed.

5. Other business

a. John brought up the military monuments in town. Who should have the say in what names are added? Tom will ask Select Board to give that honor to the Legion, so it will be their sole responsibility to decide. John also talked about the Civil War monument at the primary school and wondered about its future if the school was ever sold. Where would the monument be relocated?

b. More discussion on the vulnerable Rt. 100 cemetery. As it is a state road, they are the only ones who can put in guard rails. Replacing the chain link fence with granite posts might not need state permission, possibly only a town permit. An RFP is needed to solicit bids for the job. Round Hill Fence and Middlebury Fence were suggested as companies may provide the necessary service. Natalie Sherman who has a granite fence on her property will be approached and asked details about it, including what company she used. Robert will reach out to Natalie.

c. We didn't discuss Communications between town workers and commissioners.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Walton

Next meeting Wednesday, October 1, 2025 at 4pm