

WATERBURY CEMETERY COMMISSION

Minutes October 1, 2025, 4pm • Steele Community Room

Members present: Jan Gendreau, Barb Walton, Robert Dostis, Jill Chase
Tom Leitz and Jane Brown attending

September minutes approved.

Possible granite post fence at Old Center Cemetery to deter cars crashing into stones

Ongoing search for local company that can do the job

To Do List for Loomis Hill Cemetery

1. Remove stumps and branches along back fence and corner
 2. Remove remaining birch stump and suckers on bases of two of remaining birches
 3. Restack stones that have fallen from wall
 4. Stone for the second Mrs. Loomis needs to be engraved and erected
 5. Decide whether the wire fence goes (or does it belong to a neighbor?)
 6. Small trees and vegetation filling in on our side of the fence line to the right
Robert will clear them out and put in the brush pile in the back corner
 7. Scrub moss off entry stone with names
 8. Add a bench made from stones in the vault or discarded at the Old Center Cemetery. Some study will be needed to create a base.
 9. Add these grave stones to our cleaning rotation
- Corner pins were found for the cemetery property as surveyed by Glenn Town in 2011.

Observations at Demeritt Cemetery on Blush Hill

While the surrounding stone wall looks solid, saplings and ground vegetation have taken over

Due to limited access, work would need to be done by hand

Can be handled by loppers, then resulting brush piled in the back corner

Commissioners could tackle it or Tom from Majestic Auto

Once it's cleaned up we can re-evaluate

Barb will contact Tom Douglass about doing the job

Jill will contact neighbors to alert them of activity in the cemetery

Cooperation with the Tree Board

Jane Brown joined our meeting to discuss initiatives.

Adam McCullough will conduct a pruning workshop on 10/20/25 at the Maple St. cemetery, which will be joined by members of the Tree Board and the Cemetery Commission.

For this and future, we hope to increase communication with the Tree Board members and to collaborate on structural pruning of the trees in our care.

The Board is hoping to add new trees at Maple St. to frame the view of the mountains, perhaps sugar maples or native bass. This would be a spring project when there is a better selection of trees available. The Board will come back to the Commission with a proposal to vote on.

On the wish list is some kind of i.d. added to trees around town and in cemeteries, though the method needs to be researched.

Jane noted that the ash tree in Hope will need to be re-inoculated for ash borer in 2026. Tom thinks perhaps in future, with the right equipment, town staff could be trained to do inoculations themselves.

Finances

Year end expenses will include approximately \$10,000 for part-time work done in cemeteries, but that still leaves us with money to use for projects this year if we'd like. If not, it will just stay in our funds.

Tom suggested we ask Mike LaSchiavo to cut down various trees if he has time this fall. He could also work on all the vegetation crowding stones, trimming bushes, and taking out bittersweet and invasives now and in future. **Jan will walk through with Tom & Mike to point out problem spots in one cemetery to start.**

Beyond that, Jan suggested we need a dedicated gardener who can see what needs to be done . . . rotten stumps, invasives identified and removed; someone who knows their plants and trees.

Jane brought up the need for trimming the ditch at the old cemetery before small trees start growing up and obscuring the ditch and the entrance as it tends to do annually.

Tom suggested we budget for and get bids to have work done from next Spring in the cemeteries.

He also discussed the war monuments in town with Wayne Goulet and the legion is ready to be responsible for adding names. The Legion will have access to the funds available for such work. This relieves the Select Board of overseeing ongoing maintenance of the monuments.

Cemetery Walk-Through

Commissioners surveyed Hope, Maple St., and Old Center (Rt. 100), for problems. Jan created a detailed list of things that need to be done that will guide the work of the Commission and is available upon request.

Respectfully submitted 10/7/2025

Jill Chase