

WATERBURY CEMETERY COMMISSION

Minutes November 5, 2025, 4pm • Steele Community Room

Members present: John Woodruff, Jan Gendreau, Robert Dostis, Jill Chase
Mike LaSchiavo attending. No public.

October minutes approved.

Critters under stones

Town employees took a look at the Vincent grave; John W. will ask Bill W. about this.

As monuments are property of the owner of the lot, this would be a problem for the owner to solve.

Demerit Cemetery

Tom Douglass will clean up brush and sapling growth for \$275

Barb can clarify what Tom was going to do with the brush when finished.

Should be hauled away in courtesy to the neighbors.

The Commission voted to approve the work. John or Barb will confirm with Tom.

Loomis Hill stumps not yet removed; **John will ask Bill about this.**

(Thank you to Robert who chain-sawed all growth by the fence and around birches in Loomis.)

Mike LaSchiavo reported on

the pruning session in Maple St. cemetery.

Hydrangeas & lilacs should not be planted near stones as they spread out and have lots of small undergrowth.

End of Sept./first of Oct. best time to prune hydrangeas. Mike suggests expert pruners prune every 3-4 years, then leave all cuttings for the town to dispose of.

The five hydrangeas in Rt. 100 need work.

He thinks the cost for pruning would be around \$660.

The Commission voted to have Mike go ahead and prune this year.

In Hope, no big issues.

Mike raised the skirts of the cedars, cleaning out stuff underneath.

There are lilacs and two hydrangeas that will need pruning.

Lime light hydrangea along some of the perimeter should be encouraged to grow, with annual (though monthly would be ideal) weed whacking around them to take out competition.

Two burr oaks are available from Branch Out Burlington (Kyle Allbe) if we want to plant them in any of the cemeteries..

Maple St. has lots of room for additions and a forward-thinking design.

We could start thinking of how trees will fit the future plan of the yet-to-be-developed section. The plan should make people want to be buried in a pretty place. The design doesn't have to be grid-like as burials are so different now. Perhaps grouping plantings rather than people feeling they have to have their own plants next to their stones. Make it more private and comfortable while they visit their loved ones. Change or add roads, create forage for animals, etc.

Mike willing to help design; **he will start by flying his drone over the area.**

Kevin Nelson can help Mike with technology. Commission will stay in touch in preparation for Spring. ARRTI folk might also provide some expertise.

Thought will have to be given to types of burial, such as cremations vs. full burial. Mike should come to Cemetery Commission first for an initial design with "hard landscaping" decisions, then the Tree Board for vegetation discussions. We will have to be flexible if things change, like people wanting more green burials, etc. Scattered ashes areas, with markers around the edge, could be created. Another possibility would be having a columbarium for cremations to build upward, saving cemetery land.

Rt. 100 Fencing

Someone from the commission needs to ask the State Highway Dept. about any restrictions to what we might do.

Robert's findings on the granite post solution proved too expensive (over \$40,000).

Maybe make in sections that can be replaced as needed and they'd at least slow down cars heading for the stones.

Need to finalize what we'd like done next year by the town to give to them. Like:

Dead maple in Maple St.

Dead tree next to Rt. 100 entrance

Stumps need to be removed in Hope (mini excavator?)

Edge of Hope by corn field has piles of dirt that could be used to spread and even out the land there or fill in places in upper, old section, like by Atherton's.

Some old stones almost falling over the bank near the corn fields due to erosion

Over the winter, **review & establish our rules and bylaws.**

Respectfully submitted 11/13/2025

Jill Chase