

WATERBURY CEMETERY COMMISSION • Minutes April 1, 2026 4pm • Steele Room

Members present: Jan Gendreau, Barb Walton, Robert Dostis, and Jill Chase. Jane Brown from the Tree Board attended. Public: Ryan Geary, Claude (AI)

1. March minutes approved.

2. Other Business

a. Ryan Geary of Winooski Street, member of Waterbury VT 250 committee

The committee working on a grant for an interactive walking tour for Revolutionary War Vets, using QR codes on plaques, on posts in the ground near graves or houses. If grant is secured, they would like permission to place the QR codes in cemeteries.

Probably wouldn't be completed this year, but can be celebrated in 2027 to coincide with VT's 250. Maybe even have a "Find a Pokemon" type search involved. The grant would be for 20 locations. Ryan will send us a copy of the grant, including a description of the posts.

Ryan has volunteered to help get cemetery stones in good shape. He has worked with the Vermont Old Cemeteries group and Conservation Corps on grave stone maintenance. Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday are his most available days.

3. New Business

a. Hardscape ideas for Maple Street

Jane Brown started discussion. Mentioned small Burr Oaks added in the far corner of the undeveloped area. (Burr Oaks can live 200-300 years and provide lots of grubs for birds in spring.) Need to estimate future deaths, cremations, full burials. Should soil samples be taken, as well as resistance to road salt, etc., to decide tree choices? Where might a second road lead in from Maple St. The tree committee will hold off any more planting until things can be envisioned. Flowering crabs, viburnum, service berry, dogwood (yellow cherry/early blooming), may be good picks. Screening would be good on property lines on either side. Jan & Jane will meet to take measurements and get a feel for the area we're working with. Could town expand waterline for newly developed area, for a fountain/water feature or even just for watering purposes? All current graves should be plotted to see exactly how much room is possible for "infill" as well as new grave lots. The empty spots could also be used for shade trees dotted around the cemetery which would be a welcome addition. lifeforest.com in Hillsboro, NH and KMIcolumbaria.com would be interesting for the Commission to peruse. Field trips are in order! Make circles to scale of the proposed cremation gardens we can move around on a map for placement decisions.

4. Old Business

a. Route 100 Cemetery prices for stone replacements (John) tabled

b. Next cemetery blurbs to be added to website (Jan) tabled

Jan suggested April/May we take new photos to include with the blurbs.

Next meeting May 6, 2026 at 4 pm, Steele Room

Respectfully submitted 4/2/2026 • Jill Chase