TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
Cemetery Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2025
Office Building, Meeting room 3
Via Zoom and YouTube Live

In attendance:

Cemetery Committee Members:

Karl Stofko, Chairman
Crary Brownell, Vice Chairman
Alison Guinness
Debra Denette, Secretary

Others: Irma Carper-Miller

Call to Order

Dr. Stofko called the Cemetery Committee to order at 7:00 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes.

Motion by Mrs. Guinness to accept the minutes of the October 16, 2025 regular meeting as presented. Mr. Brownell seconded the motion. The motion adopting the August minutes carried unanimously.

Communications

Dr. Stofko advised that the selectmen have appointed Phil Barlow to the Commission, (Effective November 5, 2025), Mr. Barlow was unavailable for this meeting. Mrs. Denette advised that she would assemble materials for Mr. Barlow prior to the next meeting.

A FOI workshop will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 22, 2025. Attendance was encouraged.

Veteran's Update

Irma noted that the Troopers have moved indoor for the winter. 11 stones, in 28 pieces have been brought to the indoor space. Markers have been placed from the location where the stones are to be returned to. She also noted that some stones are badly in need of replacement.

Facilities Update

Following up from discussion at the last meeting, Mrs. Denette presented ownership information regarding 2nd yard. It is a town owned cemetery with no property description located in the middle of property owned by the Ray of Light Farm. Some form of right of way needs to be procured. The Ray of Light family has been very amenable to provide access, however, the next owners may not be. Mr. Brownell will start with Land Use for alternative access ways.

Old Business

The Mark Phillips stone still has not been located
The Spencer stones are still located in the basement of the Municipal Office Complex
Fencing at Bashan still a wish of the committee, and an appropriate grant request. As is fencing at Three Bridges, and a gate for the entryway at Warner.
Article promoting need for expansion of cemeteries should be written as the process moves forward.

By-Laws, Rules & Procedures, Ordinance

A Memo was drafted to the Selectmen requesting alternates be added to the Committee's charge as the first step prior to formalizing amendments to the by-laws and rules and procedures. Dr. Stofko signed the memorandum at this time.

Calendar

The calendar for 2026 was prepared for the Third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. Motion by Mrs. Denette, seconded by Mr. Brownell to approve the calendar as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Additional cemetery space

Mr. Brownell will provide documentation on work done by P&Z to identify town owned land that is suitable for cemetery expansion. This will need to be compared with pros and cons of possible expansion of the Mount Parnassus cemetery (cost, continuity of use, etc)

Audience of Citizens

Mrs. Guinness noted that the historical society has begun planning for the 250th Celebration of America. The event is anticipated to include several events throughout the year. Volunteers were encouraged.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm upon a motion made by Dr. Stofko, seconded by Mr. Brownell and carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Denette