TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
Cemetery Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2026
Office Building, Meeting room 3
Via Zoom and YouTube Live

In attendance:
Cemetery Committee Members:

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

Others: Irma Carper-Miller
Bernie Miller

Call to Order

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

Adoption of Minutes.

Motion by Mrs. Denette to accept the minutes of the January 16, 2026 regular meeting as presented. Mr. Brownell seconded the motion. The motion adopting the January minutes carried unanimously.

Communications

Mrs. Denette relayed correspondence identifying the Cemeteries invested funds. These funds include:

Investment at Key Bank
A CD with Liberty Bank for the benefit of Hadlyme Cemetery
A CD with Liberty Bank for Cemetery Maintenance
A CD with Liberty Bank for Cemetery (non expendable).

It was suggested that an executive session be held at the end of the meeting to discuss the finances, and negotiation options for a potential cemetery space. Motion by Mr. Brownell to add the item to the agenda following audience of citizens. Mrs. Denette seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Veteran's Update

Irma noted that the Troopers have nearly completed their indoor work. They have been meeting every Monday and Friday. Next steps are to clean up the space.

Discussion was held regarding the pieces of the Mark Phillips stone, its historical significance and potential options should the remaining pieces not be found in the spring.

Dr. Stofko noted that the 250th celebration committee would like to have the Captain Spencer oblisk cleaned at the Nathan Hale School house in connection prior to the celebration. The height of the stone presents a challenge.

Facilities Update

No update provided.

Old Business

The Mark Phillips stone (see under Veterans update)
The Spencer stones are still located in the basement of the Municipal Office Complex
Fencing at Bashan is 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. (it was unknown if these items were part of facilities budget request).
Article promoting need for expansion of cemeteries should be written as the process moves forward.

Burial request for space (Elaine Woods) Millington. The deeds found only reference three burial plots, which have been filled (not the seven the family believe that they held).
Hal Bailey (Mount Parnassus Cemetery)

By-Laws, Rules & Procedures, Ordinance

The town meeting which will move an update to the ordinance forward has not been scheduled as of yet.

Budget

Mrs. Denette noted that last year the Committee received $2,000. That request will again be presented, along with an $8,000 request for reserves. The intent was to build a pot for large expense such as surveying or purchasing property. It was initially a $15,000 request, but has been continually either cut or eliminated in difficult budget years. The facilities budget was not

forwarded, as requested. Presentation to the Selectmen is Monday at 4:45 p.m. Mrs. Denette and Mr. Brownell committed to attend.

Additional cemetery space

Mrs. Denette advised that work done years ago to identify future burial space was lost in 2012 when a significant network crash occurred. Mr. Ventres stated that he will make effort to re-create it.

It would be the Committees preference to expand an existing cemetery rather than create another one.

Audience of Citizens

Nothing noted.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Denette at 7:25, seconded by Dr. Stofko and carried unanimously the Committee entered into an executive session to discuss a potential property purchase for cemetery use and funding sources.

Dr. Stofko, Mr. Brownell and Mrs. Denette went into executive session at 7:25 and ended the executive session at 7:39 p.m. No motions were made.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Denette