TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
Cemetery Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 21, 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: Don Henson
Ken Beatrice

Call to Order

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

Membership

At the July 16, 2025 meeting of the Board of Selectmen Mrs. Guinness was reappointed. A vacancy exists as Mr. Pettinelli did not seek to be reappointed. Applications were received from both Phil Barlow and Ken Beatrice. Mr. Beatrice was in the audience and addressed his interest in cemeteries and his relevant experience. It was noted that the same opportunity should be given to Mr. Barlow prior to making a recommendation. It was also noted that the Committee has expressed a desire to have an alternate, however, an ordinance amendment would be required. Mr. Barlow and Mr. Beatrice will be invited to the September meeting.

Adoption of Minutes.

Motion by Mr. Brownell to accept the minutes of the June 19, 2025 regular meeting as presented. Mrs. Guinness seconded the motion. The motion adopting the June minutes carried unanimously.

Communications

Mrs. Denette advised that the deed for Three Bridges Cemetery has yet to be recorded. Additional paperwork has been requested. It was noted that several trees came down in recent winds in this cemetery.

Veteran's Update

Don Henson noted that additional labor is very much needed. He stated that the Trooper's crew finished a complete restoration at Bashan Cemetery. He noted that they then moved to work at Foxtown Cemetery, where there were only six veterans. They are presently working at Warner Cemetery. He noted that they removed a large boulder that was at the entrance way which makes access easier, top soil and grass seed was also added. A broken post was epoxied, and it is ready and waiting for a new gate. He noted that facilities should put in a new gate. Specific stones were discussed, along with work done in connection with Haddam Quarry that has been a supply for Brownstone to shore up degrading stones.

Facilities Update

No one present.

Three Bridges Cemetery

As reported earlier, the deed has yet to be recorded.

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
Entryway at Warner to be evaluated by the Chairman for access, a gate is necessary.
Article promoting need for expansion of cemeteries

Budget

Mrs. Denette advised that the budget was passed at the second referendum. Funding for tree removal at cemeteries remained in the budget, although it was reduced by the Selectman.

Mount Parnassus possible expansion

Mrs. Guinness stated that rather than visit the Board of Finance, as discussed previously because they questioned whether the Town should even be in the cemetery business, Mrs. Guinness stated that if it's in the charge, its appropriate to pursue and we should channel our efforts through the Board of Selectmen.

The Ordinance, Rules and Procedures and Bylaws with proposed edits by Mrs. Denette and Mrs. Guinness were distributed, discussion will occur at the next meeting.

Other

Dr. Stofko noted that he is still working with the Hodyke family to find burial space for two sisters to be buried with other family members at the Millington Cemetery. The records are not detailed enough to make a decision at this time.

Audience of Citizens

Nothing noted.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm upon a motion made by Mrs. Guinness, seconded by Mr. Brownell and carried unanimsly.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Denette