TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
Cemetery Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 16, 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: Donald Angersola
Philip Barlow
Rick Shea

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 August 21,2025 regular meeting as presented. Mr. Brownell seconded the motion. The motion adopting the August minutes carried unanimously.

Communications

Mrs. Denette advised that the deed for Three Bridges Cemetery has been recorded. Mr. Angersola confirmed that it has been added to the Town's insured parcels.

Veteran's Update

It was noted that the Veterans have been busy at Second Yard. It was also relayed that a woman named Diane Fields (860-460-5629) claims to have been doing maintenance at the cemetery. Mr. Angersola stated that the Town crew has done much of the work that Ms. Fields claims to have done.

It was determined that a bit of research regarding the right of way and access is necessary. Mrs. Denette stated that she will look at it.

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Facilities Update

Mr. Angersola reported that there will be one more mow of town owned cemeteries and then the crew will switch to brush and leaves clean up. He also reported. That Three Bridges Cemetery has had trees felled and limbed, the property has also been cleaned up. Dr. Stofko stated that he visited recently and it looked really good. It was also noted that there is a tree down by Warner from the recent storm.

Mr. Angersola was aware that Landmarks has an upcoming cemetery tour. He also noted that Three Bridges needs a new fence at the approximate cost of $5,800.00. This was not budgeted for the 2025/2026 fiscal year. Grant funding will be pursued.

Mr. Angersola further encouraged the Committee to pursue additional cemetery space.

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

By-Laws, Rules & Procedures, Ordinance

The aforementioned documents were all reviewed by the Committee. Dr. Stofko would like any cemetery space to only be sold to East Haddam residents (or former residents). Such restriction was not believed to be legal, counsel will need to be consulted. The ordinance amendment (to add alternates to the Committee) was deemed the initial way to proceed. The amendment would require action by the Board of Selectmen and ultimately a town meeting. Following that outcome the By-laws and Rules and procedures can be adopted. Mrs.. Denette stated that she would draft documentation to the Board of Selectman.

Vacancy

Mrs. Denette noted that there were two applicants for the Cemetery Committee. Kenneth Beatrice and Mr. Barlow. Mr. Beatrice withdrew his application. Mr. Barlow was present in the audience and briefly reviewed his professional career as a landscape architect and surveyor and his work with the National Park Cemetery along with his interest in cemeteries. Following brief discussion, Mrs. Denette motioned, Mr. Brownell provided the second to recommend the appointment of Mr. Barlow to the Cemetery Committee by the Selectmen.

Dr. Stofko noted that Mr. Beatrice withdrew his application because of the politics, and how Mr. Brownell made him feel. Mr. Brownell stated that he felt that the cemetery troopers needed to remain separate from the Cemetery Committee. Mrs. Guinness noted that Mr. Beatrice was not a Cemetery Trooper when he application was made.

Calendar

Mrs. Denette inquired if the third Thursday was still the preferred meeting date for 2026. She stated that she would prepare a calendar for adoption at the next meeting.

The following meeting dates were noted,
November 20, 2025 7:00 meeting
December 18, 2025 meeting cancelled
January 15, 2026 7:00 meeting

Audience of Citizens

Nothing noted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm upon a motion made by Dr. Stofko, seconded by Mr. Brownell and carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Denette