TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
Cemetery Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 16, 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
Alison Guinness

Others: Todd Gelston

Call to Order

Dr. Stofko called the Cemetery Committee to order at 7:10 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes.

Motion by Mrs. Guinness to accept the minutes of the February 19, 2026 regular meeting as presented. Mr. Brownell seconded the motion. The motion adopting the January minutes carried unanimously.

Communications/Veterans Update

It was reported that the Veterans will begin outdoor work shortly
There is as training/cleaning workday scheduled for the Moodus Cemetery on Saturday, April 25. Attendance was encouraged.
The veterans have undertaken the task of cleaning the Spencer monument in preparation for the 250th anniversary of America.

Facilities Update

No update provided.

Old Business

The Mark Phillips stone (see under Veterans update) – The Cemetery troopers may be working on this stone.
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) – Discussion was held.

By-Laws, Rules & Procedures, Ordinance

There is a town meeting scheduled for April 21, 2026. The call has not been seen yet, but it is believed the addition of alternates is on the call.

Additional cemetery space

Mr. Ventres provided a list of potential town owned sites for cemeteries. The one with the most promise is the Harris parcel – a back six acres.

Tater Hill and Mt. Parnassus cemetery each offered expansion potential.

Mr. Gelston noted that the Harris parcel is pretty wet. He also suggested some privately own parcels that might be suitable. The lack of a funding source was noted.
Mr. Gelston left following this discussion.

Norris Rathbun will

Mrs. Denette found the 1922 document.

… $20,000 in trust as aforesaid, and to divide and pay over the net income thereof among the following cemeteries, located in the town of East Shaddam, CT in the following proportions, that is to say:

To the cemetery located in the fifth or Bashan district 1/8 of said income;
To the cemetery in the sixteenth or ackley district, one fourth ¼ of said income; and to divide the balance of the income in such amounts or proportions as said trustee shall deem best, in its discretion, equally or otherwise among the cemeteries in the tenth or Millington district, in the eleventh or plains district, in the thirteenth or Foxtown district, in the fourteenth or tater hill

district and the Riverview cemetery such income to be used, at the discretion of the trustee for the care of said cemeteries respectively, for keeping the grounds, fences, monuments and grave stones in order and repair, for furnishing new stones for either old or new graves, if deemed best by the trustee, and generally for keeping said cemeteries in order in any way that the trustee may deem proper and appropriate and I give the trustee full authority and discretion concerning the expenditure of the income as above directed for the purpose of keeping said cemeteries in good order.

The Committee authorized Mrs. Denette to work with the finance director and Trustee to determine if the Trustee still retains oversight functions or if they are purely a financial institution for the invested funds.

Budget

Mrs. Denette advised that the referendum will be held May 5th. The cemetery committee's budget remains as was presented last year.

Audience of Citizens

Nothing noted.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Guinness and seconded by Mr. Brownell, the meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Denette