TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
Cemetery Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2026
Office Building, Meeting room 3
Via Zoom and YouTube Live

In attendance:

Cemetery Committee Members:

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

Irma Carper-Miller
Donald Angersola

Call to Order

Dr. Stofko called the Cemetery Committee to order at 7:02 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes.

Motion by Crary Brownell to accept the minutes of the July 16, 2026 regular meeting as written. Alison Guinness seconded the motion. The motion adopting the July minutes as presented carried unanimously.

Communications/Cemetery Troopers Update

Irma Carper-Miller advised that the Trooper's have been working at the Hadlyme Cemetery. She noted that there must have been vandalism at the cemetery sometime after 2013. The Trooper's have been fixing many stones that were snapped at the base.

Facilities Update

Mr. Angersola advised that lots of work has been occurring at Bashan Cemetery. Several trees were downed in a storm, following clean up additional trees (crane required) have also been taken down. In the past few years as many as 10 large trees have been removed. The three large pines are also scheduled to come down. Mrs. Carper—Miller stated that the sap is really difficult to remove from the headstones.

Mr. Angersola stated that following the storms, and the clean up required, regular mowing of the cemeteries was pushed back. They are now catching up. Responsive to a question from Dr. Stofko, Mr. Angersola advised that the town employs 3 maintenance people that work on grounds maintenance as well as many other duties.

Mr. Angersola advised that parking spaces have been added at the Three Bridges cemetery and that the fence was removed. He also stated that the gate remains, however, the cemetery remains open and accessible.

Old Business

The following items remained status quo.

- The Mark Phillips stone is still missing.
- 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.

It was noted that the fencing at Three Bridges has been taken care of and can be removed from the list in the future.

Burial request for space

The Ayer/Bailey plot at Mt. Parnassus Cemetery contains the remains of seven individuals. Hal Bailey's grandparents, great grandparents along with three children of his great grandparents. The plot has available space on the Northeast side of the plot. It was the consensus of the Committee that Mr. Hal Bailey has satisfactorily documented the relationship of the earliest plot holder, that a deed likely never existed as the first burials occurred in the 1860's era. Mrs. Denette was instructed to compose a letter to Mr. Bailey to give to the funeral home that will handle his arrangements documenting the approval for his cremains to be interred in the Ayer/Bailey lot in the absence of a deed. Dr. Stofko suggested that he set his headstone in advance.

By-Laws, Rules & Procedures, Ordinance

Mrs. Denette distributed updated draft copies of these documents. All were asked to review and present comments at the next meeting. It was also noted that a section needs to be added to identify the process for burial in a family plot when space allows for it and no deed exists.

Frequency of Meetings

Discussion was held regarding whether meeting every month was meritorious. It was the consensus of the Committee to hold meetings every other month through the end of the year and see how that goes. The September and November meetings will be cancelled. October 15th and December 17th will be the remaining meetings for this year.

Mrs. Denette, Mr. Brownell and Mr. Barlow have begun the work of documenting filled burial spaces. The group has started at Millington.

Audience of Citizens

Nothing noted.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brownell, seconded by Mrs. Denette, the meeting adjourned at 7:37

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Denette