

MINUTES OF THE NORWICH CEMETERY COMMISSION
March 5, 2025

Members Present: Dan Goulet, Emily Myers and Ellen Terie

Members Absent: Alix Manny and Bonnie Munday

Guests: In person: Loralie Durkee, Anne Foley, Rich Landry (Cemetery Solutions), Joan Laro, Dave McNally, Fred Smith, Pam Smith and Judy Trussell

Via Zoom: Lee Webster and Alice Werbel.

1.) The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm in the Norwich Congregational Church parish hall.

2.) **Public Comments:** None

3.) **Green/Natural Burials:** We spoke with Lee Webster via zoom about natural burials. According to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, "Lee Webster is an internationally recognized writer, educator, and public speaker on funeral reform. She has served in major leadership positions of the Green Burial Council, Conservation Burial Alliance, National Home Funeral Alliance, National End-of-Life Doula Alliance, and is the director of NH and VT Funeral Resources & Education. She is author of several home funeral and green burial books, and instructor in adult ed, universities, mortuary schools, and Redesigning the End.com classes." She answered several questions the commission and public had pertaining to natural burials. Also, Thetford Cemetery Commission is planning to hold a 'round-table' discussion with Norwich and other Cemetery Commission in March 11, from 6-8:00pm at the Thetford Town Hall (a warrant for this meeting will be published)

4.) **Mowing Bids for 2025:** The Commission plans to post the Hillside and Union Village Cemeteries mowing bid for 2025 by this Friday via Norwich Listserv, Norwich Facebook Listserv, The Valley News, Town Hall bulletin boards and other public places. We will request a proposal submission deadline by 1 April and plan to meet as a commission to review the bids on 2 April, a warrant will be published.

5.) **Speak with Fred Smith about understanding Sexton duties.** Fred Smith will continue to dig burial spots but is handing over other sexton duties. These include: answering phone calls pertaining to buying lots, showing the lots to individuals/family members, pouring foundations for headstones. The Commission will need to fill these roles or hire others to complete the tasks.

5.) **Grant Opportunities.** The Commission plans to submit grant requests this year to the Norwich Women's Club and the Norwich Lion's Club.

6.) **Identifying Dates for Grave Cleaning:** The Commission will publish dates for the community to help with headstone cleaning for Union Village and Fairview Cemeteries to take place this summer.

7.) **Review Cemetery Commission draft rules/regs and bylaws:** Tabled until a later meeting, once we have decided on how best to proceed with natural burials.

8.) **New Business:** The town voted Alix Manny into the 5 year Cemetery Commission position as well as approve the \$25,000 appropriation to the Cemetery Commission at this year's town meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily P. Myers, Cemetery Commission member