

Cemetery Committee Minutes

February 20, 2026

10:00 AM

Present:

Jason Fitch (Sexton)

Donald Young

Kevin Nelson

Mary Lou Mollerus

Melvin Burnham

Gail Pelotte (Town Clerk)

Gene Rouse

Ann Spaulding

Amy Rouse

Absent:

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Gene Rouse at 10:02 AM.

Approval of Minutes:

Mary Lou Mollerus moved Ann Spaulding 2nd that the minutes from November 13, 2025, be approved as written.

Vote: 5 yes 0 no 2 abstained Kevin Nelson, Gene Rouse

New Business:

Budget Meeting for FY2027

Why are items with no money listed on the budget?

- Gail Pelotte said that that is the way it runs.

- **Electricity:** Mel Burnham moved Kevin Nelson 2nd to request \$600.00

VOTE: 6 yes 0 no 1 abstained Gene Rouse

Discussion: there are costs for November that are higher than the Spring/Summer, usage. Only the Garage has electricity. Garage is on Main Street. It is used only during the warmer months. Upon examining the records January/February are billed together. Gail will make sure that items are correctly labeled.

- Water:** Ann Spaulding moved Mary Lou Mollerus 2nd to request \$1,200.00
VOTE: 5 yes 1 no 1 abstained Gene Rouse
Discussion: Melvin Burnham looking at usage and cost of Madison Avenue (North Cemetery). Again, a double bill. Faucet is not on.
Discussion: Gail Pelotte suggested that we not change the amount from last year.
VOTE: 5 yes 1 no 1 abstained. Gene Rouse
- Web Site Maintenance:** Gail Pelotte moved Mel Burnham 2nd to request \$2,400.00.
VOTE: 6 yes 0 no 1 abstained Gene Rouse
Discussion: DocuFree/cemetery find is our web site.

Sexton Contract: Kevin Nelson moved Don Young 2nd to request \$100,367.00 (under contract)
VOTE: 6 yes 0 no 1 abstained Gene Rouse
- Catholic Church:** Gail Pelotte moved Mary Lou Mollerus 2nd to request \$1,200.00
VOTE: 5 yes 1 no Melvin Burnham 1 abstained Gene Rouse
- Tree Cutting:** Melvin Burnham moved Ann Spaulding 2nd to request \$2,000.00.
VOTE: 5 yes 0 no 1 abstained Gene Rouse
Discussion: cut from our budget last year because Select board felt we could use reserves, but added back in this year.
Kevin Nelson asked what we need to be looking at. We have cedar trees at Southside that probably need to be removed. Can not do in-house. May be a big pine at Bloomfield Cemetery that will need to be removed.

Repairs & Maintenance: Ann Spaulding moved Kevin Nelson 2nd to request \$6,500.00
VOTE: 0 yes 6 no 1 abstained Gene Rouse

Ann Spaulding moved Kevin Nelson 2nd to request \$8,500.00

VOTE: 5 yes 1 no Gail Pelotte 1 abstained Gene Rouse

Discussion: DAR did stone repair at Southside last year 50+ stones were repaired for \$2,500.00 with supplies \$5,050.00. Half came from repair and maintenance and half from stone repair. Some of the charge was paid from Capital Reserves. Select Board

okay \$6,000.00 , there is some money left from Capital Reserves. Gail Pelotte wants it to stay in Capital Reserves so that our budget stays status quo.

Record Maintenance:

Mel Burnham moved and Gail Pelotte 2nd that we set aside \$2,000.00 for record maintenance.

VOTE: 5 yes 1 no Gail Pelotte 1 abstained Gene Rouse

Discussion: Boston does this. Gail sends death records. This should be done by the sexton. There was a discussion about where to store and how often has to be handled. Maps and other information needs a storage cabinet/shelf. We should be looking at a secure document storage/ fire safe. Most of it is in books. Converting to electronic files could be costly. Have a plan. Get some quotes.

This should be a line item so that we are not waiting around for approval and losing our momentum.

We need to have a workshop to put together a plan.

If we need more we can pull from Capital Reserve for additional money.

Road Maintenance and Repair:

Discussion: Kevin would like to take this back to the Selectboard and bring it to Cemetery Committee next meeting.

- **Cemetery Monument Reconstruction: (Elias)**

Melvin Burnham moved Ann Spaulding 2nd to request \$25,000.

VOTE: 0 yes 6 no 1 abstained

Discussion: If the ladies are doing more work than Elias why are we paying him more? The DAR cannot do the big stones. They do not have the equipment. They repair the military and standing others back up. They are doing the stones that would not be done for many years. Elias is the only bidder – no one else will bid because of scheduling. If we could change our scheduling to Spring more people would be willing to bid.

If we moved this money (\$30,000) to Capital Reserve we could go out to bid this year and then have the work done next spring. If we put it in Capital Reserve Stone Repair and Maintenance we could then go to bid and then go to the Selectboard for permission to move money

Gail Pelotte moved Ann Spaulding 2nd to eliminating this line item.

VOTE 0 yes 6 no 1 abstained Gene Rouse

This removes Monument Reconstruction line.

Discussion: Do we really want to completely remove this line. Instead perhaps leave the line item and then rest into Capital Reserve.;

Jason recommends \$5,000 in line item and the rest in Capital Reserve. Gene recommends \$7,500 in the line item.

Kevin Nelson moves Ann Spaulding 2nd that we request \$6,000. To keep line item.

VOTE: 5 Yes 1 no 1 Gail Pelotte 1 abstained Gene Rouse

- **Capital Reserves:**
- Kevin Nelson moved Ann Spaulding 2nd that we request \$35,000.00 to add to stone repair and cleaning in our Capital Reserve account.
- **VOTE** 5 yes 1 no Gail Pelotte 1 abstained Gene Rouse

Discussion:

Our five capital reserve accounts and the amount in each:

(these numbers are not up to date)

Stone Repair & Cleaning \$5,236.92

Tree Care \$26,798.89

Cemetery Maintenance \$46,057.11

Cemetery Survey \$19,600.00

Records Maintenance \$5,000.00

Citizens might question these reserves amounts.

What do we want to ask for at Town Meeting? We are asking for \$35,000 for stone repair and cleaning. No additions to other Capital Reserves.

Melvin Burnham moved Ann Spaulding 2nd that we adjourn and schedule another meeting within three weeks.

Scheduled: March 19th @ 9:00AM.

VOTE 6 yes 0 no 1 Gene Rouse

