



**Town of Whitingham
Cemetery Commission**

MINUTES OF August 27, 2025

These Minutes will be accepted into the public record (with any corrections noted) at a future meeting of the Whitingham Cemetery Commission.

Attendees: Brad Lackey, Madeline Klein, & Joe Saladino (via phone)

Brad called meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

Additions/Deletions: None.

Old Business:

Madeline reported that Mark Spiller had just completed work on repairing 7 headstones in the old section of Sadawga Cemetery. It was estimated to cost \$2500. for his work which included digging up the old bases, making new ones and uprighting the stones.

Brad said he would contact Doug Dix regarding repairs of a couple more stones in the Jacksonville Cemetery.

Joe inquired about the Fence that was to be constructed by the Kingsbury Company. Brad said they had begun the work but didn't have the needed equipment in town to do the job. Brad said he would talk with Gig about it and fill us in at the next meeting.

Madeline asked what had happened in regards to the large group of approximately 20 trees being removed from the Green Cemetery. Brad said because the initial bid came in so high it is necessary to out a Request for Proposal. Joe volunteered to write one up and send it out to Brad and Madeline for final approval. Then it would go to Gig to be formally send out.

It was reported that the brush hog work has been completed by Matt Betit. He has been asked to get back to the committee with a price to make that area into lawn.

New Business:

Seth Boyd has asked to have the Town turn over land that they own on the back side of Sadawga Cemetery that borders his property. This is land that would require the Town to put in a bridge in to utilize as it's on the other side of the stream. Both Joe and Brad felt that the cost to build a bridge would be extremely high and would be better off sent on new lands somewhere else. Therefore, the commission agreed to allow Seth to purchase that portion of land. Brad said, the final decision on this was up to the Selectboard. Brad was going to get back to Seith with our feelings.

Mark (the guy that works for Shea funeral service) told Brad that in the future all invoices would need to be send out to the funeral service.

Madeline asked about getting signage for each Cemetery which was requested by the Whitingham Old Home Week Committee. She had found signs like Wilmington recently posted at their cemetery on Amazon for \$43.95 plus shipping each. It was agreed upon that said costs would be fine. Joe said 6' Heavy Duty Safety fence post would be used to hold the signs and could be ordered on U-Line. He has a driver for them.

The Family of Joyce Dix is still asking when the family headstone will be placed back into the correct location. Apparently when Joyce was buried Dana Dix of the then Cemetery Committee marked the wrong location and she was put in the incorrect gravesite. Dana later had her casket dug up and moved to the correct location. However, the day this was done it was wet and it was necessary to move the headstone off to the side. The headstone has never been put back into it's correct location. Brad said he would talk with Doug Dix about getting it moved into place. This has been a 3+ year wait for the family. They have been very patient but would like it taken care of now. Brad wanted to look up the actual Joyce/David Dix plot on the map before getting the work done.

Brad said he would like the Town to consider purchasing a NEMRC Town Cemetery indexing system. He suggested many towns are going to this. It would make all our cemeteries digitally available. Joe asked if the company offered initial inputting service and the cost. Brad will check. Madeline asked if there was any kind of grant available for this? Which was unknown.

More surveying is needed in the Sadawga Cemetery with Joe and Brad agreed. Brad also suggested we make a list of future projects.

Brad brought up Gravestone Facing regulations. Adjustment to current regulations with other necessary regulations that need to be written up. We will all look over current regulations and make suggestions for improvements at the next meeting.

Tree trimming was brought up by Madeline. She asked if this could be added to the fall clean up at each cemetery? All the way around each cemetery there are trees reaching over the fences/mowed area. Also, many other miscellaneous trees and unattended shrubs that need to be trimmed.

Brad Lackey made a motion to adjourn at 6:25 p.m., Madeline seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Brad Lackey & Madeline Klein