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# Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices at Cole Hall

## Meeting Minutes

PO Box 409  
61 Buck Hill Road  
Shaftsbury, VT  
05262-0409  
(802) 442-4038

### Cemetery Committee

**Date of Meeting:** August 7, 2024

**Members Present:** Neal Strong, Rosemary Lindsey, Chair; Kathy Cardiff, Superintendent; Jen Holley

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#### Agenda:

- I. Approval of July 10, 2024 Minutes
- II. Private Cemetery Burials
- III. Green Burials
- IV. Town Admin, Cemetery Super Discussion- WQ &CK
- V. Superintendent's Report
- VI. Other Business

- I. Approval of July 10, 2024 Minutes – The minutes of July 10<sup>th</sup> were Approved with a Vote of 3-0.

- II. Private Cemetery Burials

There was a short discussion about the private burials in inactive/private cemeteries. Jen and Kathy will go and visit Little Rhone Island Cemetery and bring a report back to the committee about whether or not we believe new private burials should be allowed to be added to this cemetery.

- III. Green Burials

We have received two inquiries from citizens regarding green burials in our cemeteries. One of these inquiries was particularly significant, prompting Kathy Cardiff (Committee Chair) and Jen Holley (Superintendent) to discuss the matter and make a decision since the last meeting.

According to our current Rules & Regulations, all casket burials are required to use a vault. However, the term "all casket burials" has led to questions from citizens, as green burials are a relatively new concept. To address this, we will be amending our Rules & Regulations to remove the word "casket" in order to better accommodate green burials.

#### IV. Town Admin, Cemetery Super Discussion - WQ & CK

On July 15<sup>th</sup> the Cemetery Superintendent received an email from a concerned citizen about 2 urns left abandoned in Grandview Cemetery in front of the Mausoleum. I have asked Sean Devlin from Mahar's if they knew anything about them. They did not. I asked him if he would take possession of the remains and he said no, it would be the responsibility of the Town. Since I was working at the clerk's office he would go get them for me and bring them to Cole Hall for me. That was very nice of him. I notified the citizen that we have removed the remains. I placed the remains in the Town Clerk's Vault until we decide how to respectfully deal with them. I did some research on the names of the urns and I could not find any connection to a local family or to the names on the mausoleum. It is a mystery.

We discussed creating an "Area of Reflection" in Center Cemetery where we could have a hard scape area for ease of maintenance and a bench or two and a flowering tree like the one in Grandview. Those trees do not get taller than 10-12' and surrounded by a hardscape will be very easy to maintain and will beautify the cemetery and new "Area of Reflection."

When the Lot Pinning is finished at the end of the Loop in Section B there will be an area where we could add more gravel and create the "Reflection Area there, giving people a clear area to park, and sit and visit loved ones.

The Superintendent will draw up a thought for an "Area of Reflection" in Center Cemetery.

#### V. Superintendent's Report

**Burials:** Since our last meeting: 3  
In Center Cemetery.

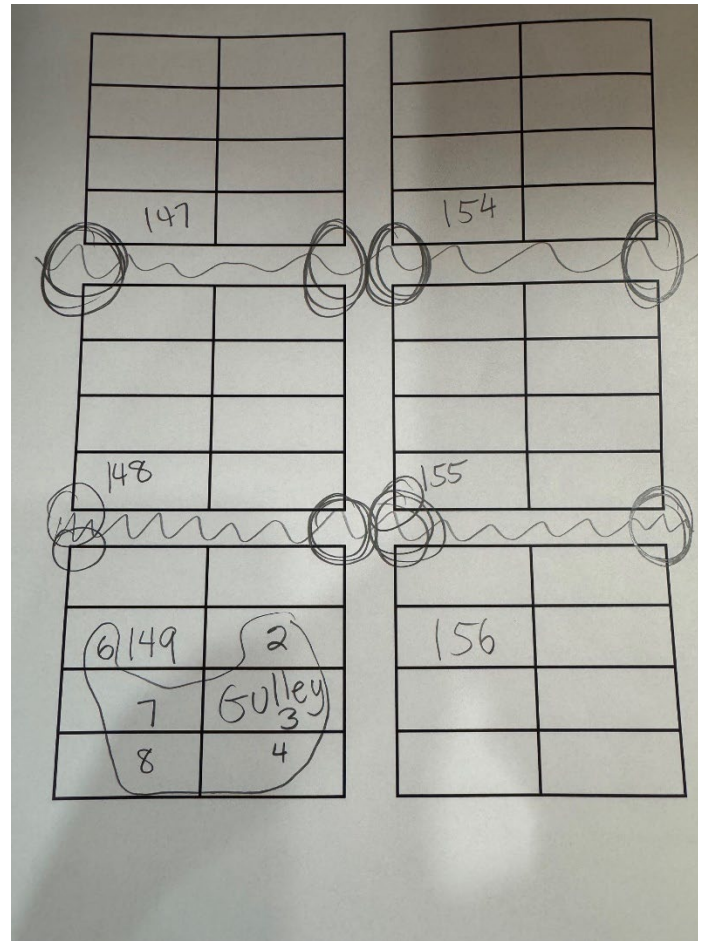
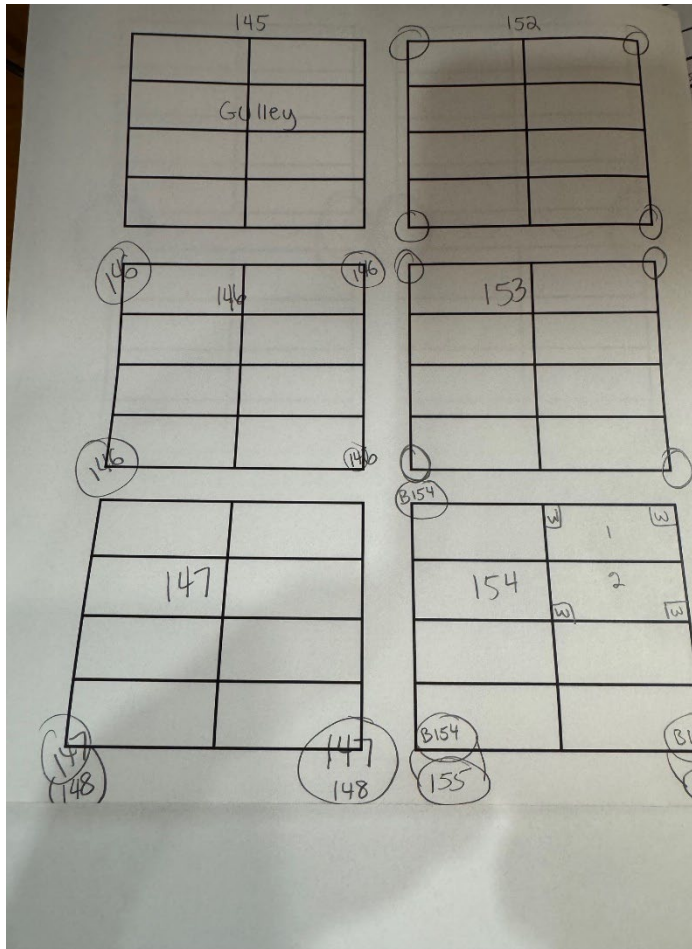
**Lot Sales:**

- No Sales this month

**Lot Pinning System:**

The tree stump has not been removed by DPW yet. I have placed the lot pinning rebar spikes in the ground; however, they are too long. They are 12 inches in length, which is the recommended length. With the ground being so hard and rocky in this area, it is impossible for me to drive the rebar fully into the ground. I

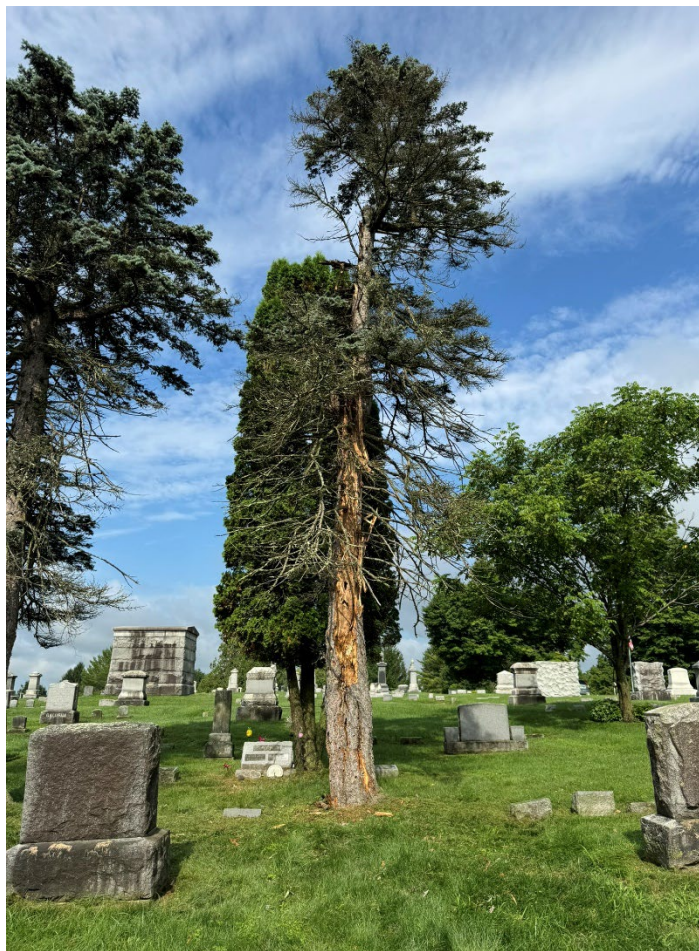
asked Mike to shorten the rebar, and they will be doing that for me this week. I am ready to label these areas and have created a very rough sketch. (see below)



### Tree Damage at Grandview:

An old pine tree in Grandview was struck by lightning and had to be removed. Its twin, which was just as old and partially dead, was also removed at the same time. This was determined to be a great idea for both financial and safety reasons by Mike Yannotti and me, and it was approved by the Town Administrator.

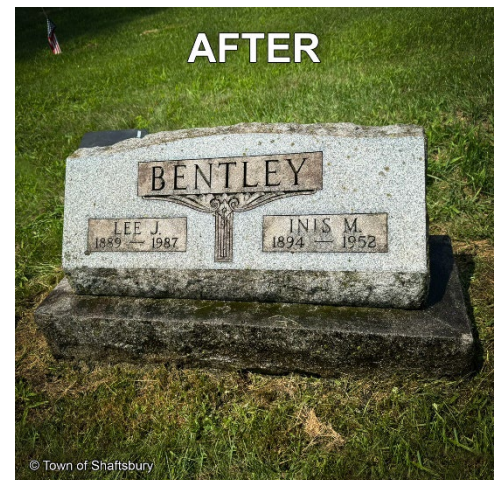
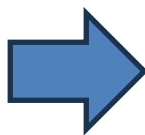
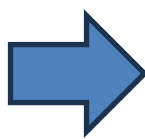
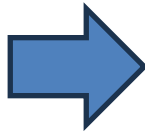




### **Headstone Cleanings & Repairs:**

I was only able to clean 7 headstones this month as I have been pretty busy, but here are a few pics.





## VI. Other Business

Kathy told us about the Atlas Preservation Company doing a 48 State Tour of Cemeteries Cleaning and Restoring Headstones. They will be in Dorset, VT on Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-3:00pm. Learn more here: <https://48statetour.com>

I mentioned that we had a 6 grave sale back from a family that decided they did not wish to use the lots. So they will Transfer the lots back to the Town and the Town will pay them the original purchase price minus perpetual care costs.

## VII. Action Items:

- Kathy and Jen will schedule a visit to Little Rhode Island when Kathy returns from her September vacation.
- Jen will draw up a thought for an "Area of Reflection" in Center Cemetery.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48am