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# Town of Shaftsbury

## Municipal Offices at Cole Hall

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

### Meeting Minutes

## Cemetery Committee Meeting

**Date of Meeting:** Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at 9am , in person, new Town Office. Available on Zoom.

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 9:00am by Cemetery Superintendent Jen Holley. Committee members were Rosemary Lindsey, Kevin Kees, Peggy Wilson, Linda O'Brien and Abbie LaBatt-Dansereau.

### 2. Conflict of Interest Statement

No conflicts of interest with any item on the agenda.

### 3. Minutes

The April 8<sup>th</sup> minutes were reviewed. Abbie LaBatt-Dansereau asked for a motion to approve. Rosemary Lindsey moved; Peggy Wilson second. The April 8<sup>th</sup> minutes were approved without amendment.

### 4. Election of new Committee Chair

Abbie LaBatt-Dansereau was nominated to be chair by Rosemary Lindsey, Peggy Wilson second. Vote was unanimous. Abbie is the new Cemetery Committee Chair.

### 5. Announcements

The committee welcomed new members Linda O'Brien and Kevin Kees.

### 6. Public Comments

None

### 7. Village Fence Installation Update

The fencing is currently being installed at the Village Cemetery and looks very nice. A question was asked about the old fencing. Jen Holley stated that several pieces would go to Center Cemetery as discussed last fall. It will be stored at DPW. The Mackseys had inquired about getting several pieces of fencing to make trinkets. Questions about how this was decided. Members were wondering if there might be interest by more townspeople in having fencing. Jen Holley stated that it was too late for that.

### Superintendent's Report

The report was passed around to the committee members. Jen Holley asked members to reflect on the Maple Hill updates. Tree stumps were removed creating a possible new area for cemetery plots. Jen

said that the area could be surveyed by her to see if it's possible. She then asked for the committee to consider. A motion was made by Rosemary Lindsey to approve Jen Holley to proceed with measuring the area to see how many graves might fit and be available to sell/use. Peggy Wilson second. Unanimous vote to approve.

## 8. Other Business

Kevin Kees offered to help paint some of the cemetery signposts that needed touching up. Jen mentioned that in the future she would like to put white pvc pipes inserted next to the veterans' stones to hold the flags better than the veteran metal flag holders. Suggested we put on a wish list for the future. Jen and Paula Iken have been purchasing the flags for the past couple of years. Rosemary asked about the purchasing of flags and has the VFW/Legion been approached about obtaining flags. Jen was told that if a town didn't have a VFW/Legion then the town was responsible for buying the flags.

Discussion turned to perpetual care of headstones and the town's responsibility. Jen stated that legally if there is no headstone on a lot then the town must place a stone on a lot within 3 years per state law. With that said the state of Vermont is not pressing that. The town sells lots with perpetual care. In the early years it was lots and memorial. The town's responsibility should take care to fix the stone. The money for perpetual care comes from the sale of lots. Half is retained for perpetual care. Rosemary will look into headstones with Shawn Devlin. Abbie offered to take photos so that the stones will be similar.

We discussed setting a limit on how much we spend on the headstones each year.

Linda asked if we could visit the cemeteries so that she could be familiar with where they are.

Jen mentioned that everyone should be using their town emails for town business. Jen will send out everyone's Cem email address for communication.

## 9. Motion to Adjourn

Moved: Rosemary Lindsey

Second: Kevin Kees

Vote: Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned 9:52am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abbie LaBatt-Dansereau, June 8, 2026



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## Cemetery Department

### Superintendent's Report - June 3, 2026

**Burials:** There have been burials. However, I have not entered them into the system yet so I will let you know next month on the total number.

**Lot Sales:** There were no lot sales this month.

#### Annual Post/Sign Painting:

Over the past month I have completed the rule post and (Grange Donated) cemetery sign posts annual "white" painting in Village, Maple Hill, and Waite Cemetery. I will get to Center and Grandview in June.

#### Military Flags:

I purchased one box of military flags from the American Legion this year to ensure we had an adequate supply. In the end, we did not need to use any of the flags from that box, which means we are well-positioned for next year. Based on our inventory and annual needs, we will need to purchase three boxes of flags next year. At a cost of \$173 per box, we should budget approximately \$519 for the flags. To date, we have received a generous \$50 donation from Carol Dziubek, which can be applied toward that expense.

I would also like to publicly thank Ron and Debbie Jennings for their outstanding volunteer efforts in placing this year's military flags at Grandview, Center, Waite, and Maple Hill Cemeteries. They are truly remarkable volunteers. Also, the SHS has placed GMB flags on the graves of Revolutionary Green Mountain Boys and they look wonderful.

During the week the military flags were placed, I was recovering from pneumonia and was dealing with very low energy levels and some difficulty breathing. Ron and Debbie stepped up - as they always do - and went above and beyond to ensure the work was completed. They graciously allowed me to handle only Village Cemetery, our smallest and flattest cemetery, while they took care of the others.

Ron and Debbie, thank you for once again coming to the rescue and helping honor our veterans. Your dedication, reliability, and willingness to help are deeply appreciated by me and our Town.

### **Special Military Stone Installation:**



In Center Cemetery, I conducted my first cremation burial for a family and also installed a military headstone. The deceased had been living in Texas, as does her surviving brother. Her 84-year-old aunt resides in Hoosick Falls, New York. Unfortunately, neither family member had the financial means to cover the costs charged by a funeral home for the burial and headstone installation. Together, the surviving relatives had only \$500 available, which was less than half of the amount quoted for both services.

To assist the family during this difficult time, I agreed to complete the burial and headstone installation for the \$500 they had available, which also included the Town's burial fee of \$100. Of that amount, \$400 was recorded as either miscellaneous income or a donation to the Cemetery Department. The payment was received in December; however, it arrived too late in the season to install the foundation before winter conditions set in.

On the day the burial and headstone installation were completed, I emailed photographs to the family. They were extremely appreciative of the work and expressed their gratitude for being able to honor their loved one despite their financial circumstances. She was laid to rest beside her mother, providing comfort and closure to her surviving family members.

### **Historical Society / 250 Celebration Tour:**

I am currently working on updates from Abbie and Carol for the Tour(s). I hope to have the updated Center Map posted by the end of this week in the cemetery and online. I am creating Tours for all other Revolutionary Soldiers and those Cemeteries also. That is going to take a little time. When I am done with that, I can also make a full tour of all Shaftsbury Revolutionary Soldiers. The mapping of the Private ones will be a challenge, and I will be

looking for a volunteer for that – a paper map drawing will do for now and I will take that and create something from that. However, I need something to go by. Any volunteers for this??

## Maple Hill – updates

### Maple Hill Stone Repair:

While working in Maple Hill last week the DPW crew and I repaired a straightened around 30 stones in section C.



### Maple Hill – Stump removal:

May 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Mike Yannottii took a vacation and asked if I could use the crew for a few days, as it is the end of the budget year. I said, oh yes. We worked primarily in Maple Hill straightening stones and large old stump removal. These stumps have been there many years. This took two days and lots of hard work but it is done. This potentially opens up “many graves” that we can now plot out and add to our Plat and sell. **If the committee would like me to proceed with this I will measure up the area and let you know how many graves we can fit there. [See attached map Row 1.](#)**



The first stump we removed was at the request of Bruce and Bonita Gabrus, who purchased a grave last year over the phone without going to the cemetery. At the very edge of their grave was a dead maple stump which was ugly, but not technically in the grave they purchased. The ground was really unlevel, also because of the stump. I explained to them I could certainly level it out and removed the tree stump as best I could in the spring. It was fortunate to have the opportunity to work with the DPW and we were able to remove the entire stump, bring in topsoil, and seed the area. It looks great. I mailed the Garbus's a letter and sent pictures to them to let them know the job has been completed.

## Maple Hill Stone Repair-Mattesson:

Stone repair in Maple Hill of Abigail Mattesson. I began to repair this stone last October at the request of an ancestor of Abigail. During the digging out of the base of the broken headstone a large dead ash tree branch almost fell on me. So I had to halt work in the area until the Town could contract out to remove the dead ash tree. Once the tree was removed it was too cold to repair the stone. I moved the stone to a flat area until spring. Last week, I was working with the DPW crew of Nick, Ian, and Eric. We glued the stone together and put it back in it's exact spot. I am going to go clean the stone this afternoon, as I am doing a popup cleaning party today. That is the area that I am cleaning.

Before



After



I sent the family pictures, and they are very pleased with the repair. They are having a Mattesson reunion this summer and plan to visit Maple Hill to see it in person.