



www.shaftsburyvt.gov

Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices

Meeting Minutes

PO Box 409
677 Vermont RTE 7A
Shaftsbury, VT
05262-0409
(802) 442-4038

Cemetery Committee

Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at 9am, In person at Cole Hall, remotely via Zoom.

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Cemetery Committee Chair, Abbie LaBatt-Dansereau, at 9:04am. Committee members present were: Rosemary Lindsey and Linda O'Brien.

Cemetery Superintendent, Jen Holley, also present.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement: No conflict of interest with any item on the agenda

3. Review of June 3rd minutes: The June 3rd minutes were reviewed. Abbie LaBatt-Dansereau asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Rosemary Lindsey made a motion. Linda O'Brien seconded. The June 3rd minutes were approved without amendment.

4. Announcements

Jen Holley thanked the Shaftsbury Historical Society for their work on the Revolutionary War Veterans Cemetery Tour. The Historical Society and Jen Holley have spent countless hours establishing the database for the town web site.

New burial plots have been added to the Maple Hill Cemetery.

5. Public Comments

None

6. Village Fence Update:

The fence is complete and looks terrific. Some clean-up still needs to be done. The promised sections of the old fence have been distributed, and six pieces will be saved by the town for future fencing needs in other cemeteries.

7. Superintendent's Report: The report was reviewed by committee members. The committee discussed the new burial sites at the Maple Hill cemetery. They can be sold as 14 traditional grave sites or 17 cremation grave sites.

A motion was made to sell them as 17 cremation grave sites by Rosemary Lindsey.

Second by Linda O'Brien

Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Cleaning of headstones continues.

Two headstones were found lying on the ground and will be repaired in Center Shaftsbury. Two headstones will be purchased by the town and placed on older graves without headstones, as per a previous motion to repair/replace two older stones per year.

8.Action Items

Finish the Revolutionary War Cemetery tours for the three remaining cemeteries

Repair the two stones at the Center Cemetery

Annual inspecting walk of the cemeteries by committee members-probably in September

11. Motion to adjourn

Moved: Linda O'Brien

Second: Rosemary Lindsay

Vote: All in favor, motion to adjourn passed 5-0

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda O'Brien, July 1, 2026



www.shaftsburyvt.gov

Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices

PO Box 409
677 Vermont RTE 7A
Shaftsbury, VT
05262-0409
(802) 442-4038

Cemetery Department

Superintendent's Report - July 1, 2026

Burials: 9 Burials since my last Burials report. (6) in Center, (2) in Waite, and (1) in Maple Hill.

Lot Sales: 1 cremation grave was sold in Grandview.

Maple Hill Popup Cleaning:

On June 3rd I held a popup cleaning work party at Maple Hill Cemetery from 12-3:00pm. Only my sister and Ron Jennings ended up joined in the cleaning but we cleaned approximately 15 stones. Abbie and Linda stopped by in the beginning and I demonstrated the cleaning process to them on one of the headstones.



The stone of Lucy M Hutchins – was not even readable before we cleaned it.

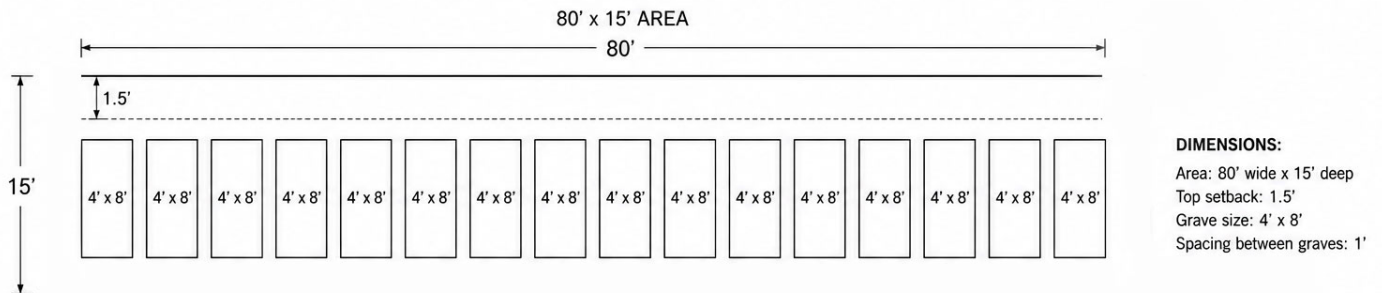
Maple Hill – new grave sections:

On June 3rd the Committee gave me permission to measure out the area made by the removal of the stumps and create new lots.



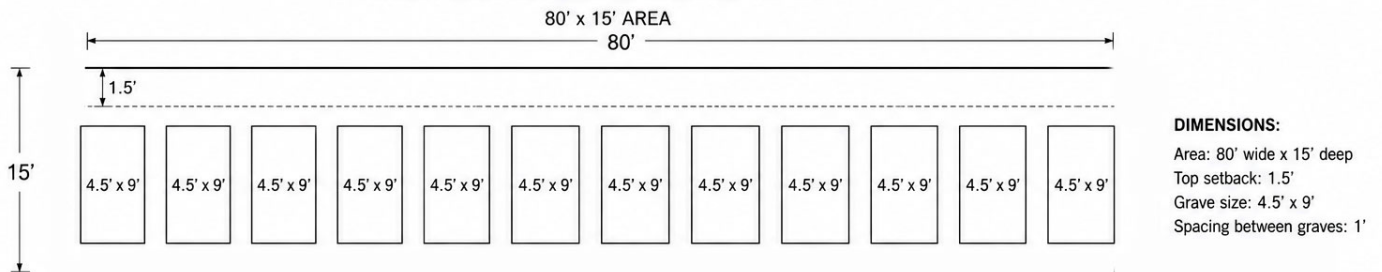
This area measure 80' x 15' – We have some options. Names Section C – Lot 1 – graves 3-?

CREMATION GRAVES 4' x 8'



17 GRAVES IN 1 ROW
 $(17 \times 4') + (18 \times 1') + (2 \times 1.5') = 80'$

TRADITIONAL BURIAL GRAVES 4.5' x 9'



14 GRAVES IN 1 ROW
 $(14 \times 4.5') + (15 \times 1') + (2 \times 1.5') = 80'$

NOTE: All measurements are in feet ('). Drawings not to scale.

17 cremation graves or 14 traditional graves. What would you like me to sell in this area?

Incident in Grandview Cemetery

Date of Incident: June 10, 2026

I received a voicemail from Valerie Minor, a property owner adjacent to Grandview Cemetery. She reported that a vehicle had been left in the cemetery overnight near the water spigot and appeared to be stuck. My initial assumption was that the vehicle had become stuck in the muddy area near the spigot, as that location can become soft during wet conditions.

I sent a text message to Jay Coonradt, who was scheduled to be mowing at Grandview Cemetery that day, and asked him to let me know if the vehicle was still there. Jay later called and advised me that I should come take a look because the truck was sitting on a cornerstone. I immediately drove to the cemetery.

Upon arrival, I found a note on the truck from the owner apologizing for the situation. The note stated that Walt's Garage had been contacted and would retrieve the vehicle, and that the owner intended to pay for any damage caused. The truck was a company vehicle and had a phone number displayed on it, so I called and left a lengthy voicemail.

I then contacted the Vermont State Police and requested an officer to respond to the cemetery. The responding trooper advised that the matter was somewhat of a gray area because it involved municipal property and that it would ultimately be up to the Town to determine how to proceed. The trooper documented the incident for his records and departed.

I then contacted the Town Administrator and received authorization to have the vehicle removed so that I could properly assess any damage. I then spoke with Walt's Garage and arranged for Walt to remove the vehicle at no cost to the Town and store it on his property in a manner that would prevent the owner from simply retrieving it. Since we did not have the keys to the vehicle, this arrangement was necessary to ensure Walt would be compensated for his services.

While Walt was loading the truck onto the flatbed, the driver of the vehicle and the owner of the company truck and his wife arrived at the cemetery. The driver explained that she had left to seek assistance in removing the truck herself, because Walt had informed her that he would

not tow the vehicle unless she first contacted either the Police Department or the Town. She had not done so.

The driver was apologetic and explained that she was in the area caring for her dying mother and was experiencing a difficult personal situation. She worked out an agreement with Walt to have the truck towed to her mother's residence in North Bennington. She also committed to returning the following day to repair the displaced cornerstone and reset the headstone. At the time, there was no actual physical damage to either stone beyond the labor required to reset them. Given the circumstances, and believing it was the right thing to do, I agreed to allow her the opportunity to correct the situation rather than pursue any further legal action.

While we were still discussing the matter, the Vermont State Trooper returned to the cemetery. I informed him that we had reached an agreement and that the issue appeared to be resolved. Because the incident occurred on municipal property and my recommendation, the trooper simply collected the driver's information for his report and took no further action.

The following day, the driver returned as promised and repaired the cornerstone. She did a satisfactory job restoring it.

At the time, I did not regret exercising discretion and allowing the matter to be resolved without further involvement from law enforcement. However, six days later, I learned that the same individual had been arrested in North Bennington for eluding police in the area of Lamb Road. The arrest involved a similar company truck but not the same one, and occurred less than a week after the incident at Grandview Cemetery. She is currently in jail.

