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Town of Shaftsbury

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Cemetery Department

Superintendent's Report - October 7, 2026

Burials: 3 – 1 in Center and 2 in Maple Hill

Lot Sales: 0

Action Items from September:

Obtain an estimate for a new flagpole and solar lighting for all cemetery flagpoles.

Top solar lighting (less likely to be stolen, grass won't grow over them and won't get run over by a mower)

Amazon: Flag Pole Light Solar Powered Top Mount, 2000 Lumen IP67 Waterproof Solar Light for Flagpole, Light Up Flag Outdoor Dusk to Dawn for 18+ Hours with Twice Coverage Than Downward Lighting

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DBZB3TFS?ref=cm_sw_r_cso_em_apin_dp_GW3XEW145AA5W4HETKYJ&ref=cm_sw_r_cso_em_apin_dp_GW3XEW145AA5W4HETKYJ&social_share=cm_sw_r_cso_em_apin_dp_GW3XEW145AA5W4HETKYJ&rsd=S6xk%2Fh1N%2Be39hkbFgcdrnEwL4epMwDUCVfdbpfGONSWpU7ZDmwfv%2BbdUrY6IE2CEYAGrGmSieDTuEY4%2BTQuu3jj2iSivs4A4ODgfMqVB2tKzuOmgw%3D%3D&edk=AQIDAHi1lw%2FM8UbbSMD9ScOOFEmBMHMthHeEhqDaQYPJUAX3jQEJZ9AfsIduG2eye0Oz%2BFw6AAAAfjB8BgkqhkiG9w0BBwagbzBtAgEAMGgGCSqGSIb3DQEHAATAeBgIghkgBZQMEAS4wEQQMfSW%2FNZwSx8HcBm23AgEQgDuoGbO9EJmxNrHbraWg%2BmVg3CoJFH2ilg42imNly20C5t9KzjB%2B1%2BtBlyKhGIEMT19IOWWMXx1cb%2FmfW%3D%3D&th=1

\$33.99 each - (5) \$169.95 for all 5 cemeteries

Waite Flagpole: \$89.90

https://www.amazon.com/VEVOR-30FT-Telescoping-Kit-Flagpole/dp/B0D8P7GT9Q/ref=sr_1_6?crid=JS0HR9WWJ3X3&dib=eyJ2IjojMSJ9.mFG14S7vEzKitEQY64YkdsWjFQ0VBJe8b55mft6-ax4ZypFIACgpgzpxW0Y1OV4DhV8wi8MkUyUS_W2qkL7PTS_Ylch9RsRD2nYgmiDlqFn97hVnR8K9ZpKoX2nRkbP-lfqC1sW0WK-Cvs1o0rePJveTLEfN_-dVEkloHTEqTsCbQAK74xMu41MRT7qdNrzuQ2mzac1Hy7wtNdbkNSmyvWno_Vgw2ofRGuXNiyHwH0V6YtDtQhQS7lth00HiFbEaDLOA-Ae0ISfhhPlxrKhrOCpV4-TcyrXS6rJ3u1eD6M.K4nDe1Yo9y3pzFoQsocG61Z7nuaR9d3NDRxOG4669dY&dib_tag=se&keywords=outdoor%2Bflagpole&qid=1791228352&refinements=p_n_g-101014971069111%3A119653281011&rnid=119653280011&srefix=outdoor%2Bflagpole%2Caps%2C153&sr=8-6&th=1

Total Requested Funds: \$259.85 – Waite Flagpole & Solar Lighting for all flagpoles

VEVOR
TOUGH TOOLS, HALF PRICE

Item Model Number **UP-QGSS30**

Total Length **30 ft**

Color **Silver**

Main Material **Aluminum Alloy**

Flag **American Flag**

Product Weight **11.02 lbs/5 kg**

Product Dimensions

Ø0.19×30 ft / Ø59×9140 mm

Accessories:

1×Instruction Manual

1×Main Pole

1×Gold Ball Finial

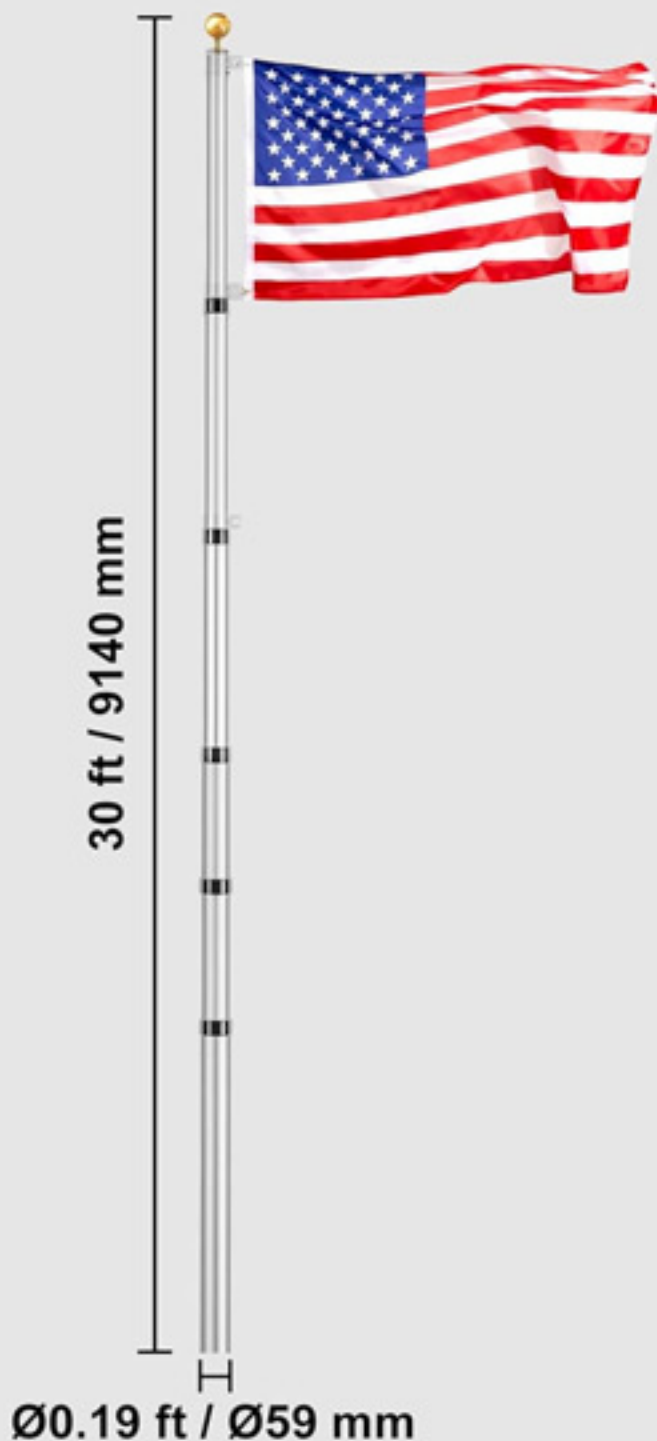
4×Aluminum Clasps

1×PVC Pipe

1×Plastic Plug

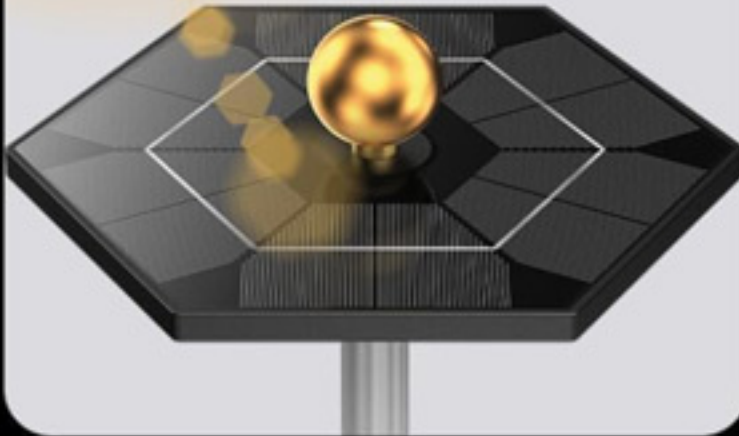
1×Pair of White Gloves

1×Flag



Step 1

Full charging for the first time opening package



Step 2

Press the button to test light, cover solar panel in light environment



Step 3

Install the light on the top with ball topper, keep button on



Step 4

Raise your flag. It's automatically on in night and off in daytime



Veterans Grave Flag Holder Pilot Project

Pilot Project. I have cut and drilled all of the pipe for the pilot flag holders. After speaking with Abbie our Chair, we decided to do the pilot project in Village Cemetery. We will start on the edge of the road on 7A and work towards the back until I run out of pipes.

Work on the Galusha Stones in Center



Front before epoxy set



Back view epoxy setting

Trimming – Request from Citizen

I trimmed the flowering bush located at Center Cemetery, Section B, Lot #144, at the grave of Donna Taft. I received a complaint from the wife of Kevin Ward, who is buried in the adjacent lot, regarding the bush being overgrown and in need of attention. After assessing the condition and size of the bush, I determined that removal was not necessary and that a thorough trimming was appropriate. The bush was trimmed accordingly.

Matteson Bench Request

The Matteson memorial benches have officially been ordered. I also met with Mark Barber from Shea Monuments to walk through both cemeteries and determine the best placement for each bench. After looking at the locations together, we agreed that the spots originally discussed with the committee near the Matteson family burial sites are the perfect locations. I'm very pleased with the placement and think the benches will be a beautiful addition to both cemeteries. I will update the committee when they arrive and have been installed by Shea.

Walkthrough Report by the Committee

Abbie provided me with a copy of the Committee's walkthrough report for Grandview, Waite, and Maple Hill Cemeteries. I appreciate the time the Committee took to visit the cemeteries and identify areas that may need attention.

There was one question in the report that I would like to address: "Who is responsible for removing the growth?"

When I was hired as Cemetery Superintendent, it was explained to me that the position was primarily administrative and that manual labor would be hired out. I understood that I could certainly pitch in when needed—for example, painting posts, waterproofing the rule box holders, cleaning headstones, and taking care of other smaller maintenance projects—but that significant physical labor was not part of my responsibilities and neither were those pitching in things. I was only responsible for filling the rule boxes and letting the Town Administrator know when something needed to be done, like a tree fell, etc..

As I became more familiar with cemetery operations, I learned that our mowing contractor is contracted specifically to mow the grounds and trim around the headstones. Other work, such as removing brush, overgrowth, limbs, or dead trees beyond the normal spring and fall cleanup, results in additional charges to the Town. Because our cemetery budget is limited, hiring out all of this additional work is simply not financially practical. However, it is municipal property so we must care for it.

For the past several years, I have tried to address as much of the overgrowth as I can myself. Each year, I spend time cutting it back and then coordinate with DPW to bring a dump truck so the material can be removed. I have been happy to help wherever I can because I care very much about the appearance and upkeep of our cemeteries.

However, this is physically demanding work, and it has reached a point where I cannot reasonably do it alone. I have asked Tim Gulley if he could provide two DPW employees to assist with some of this work. I believe that is a reasonable approach and would allow us to address these areas without incurring the expense of hiring an outside contractor. I have spoken to the new Town Administrator about making this a permanent thing for headstone work and trimming and we are trying to work it out.

I also think it is important to clarify the expectations of the Superintendent position going forward. I am already performing headstone cleaning and a variety of hands-on maintenance tasks in addition to the administrative responsibilities of the position. Taking responsibility for all cemetery edge landscaping and vegetation management beyond the contracted mowing and trimming represents a significant expansion of the physical duties originally described to me when I accepted this position. I also feel it is important to note that, despite the responsibilities of the Superintendent position continuing to grow, the line item on my paycheck for this position has been unchanged since I was hired in 2021.

I am committed to keeping our cemeteries beautiful, respectful, and well maintained, and I will continue to do everything I reasonably can. At the same time, some of this work requires additional manpower, and I believe it is important that we recognize when assistance is needed rather than expecting me to just handle it. Every project I take on, in all my positions, just slows my progress in Cemify completing Grandview. However, the work that Abbie and Linda are doing in Grandview right now – is very helpful. It is truly a blessing that the two of you are doing this research and headstone photos. It is saving me hours in the field. From the bottom of my heart – thank you.

Grandview Trimming

Yesterday, October 6, I worked alongside DPW staff Dave and Eric at Grandview Cemetery. Using chainsaws, pole cutters, and trimmers, we tackled the significant overgrowth and vines along the entire south side of the cemetery.

The back right corner was especially overgrown. As we continued cutting back the brush and vines, we actually uncovered a gate that had been completely hidden by the vegetation! None of us had ever seen the gate before, so it was a pretty good indication that it had been quite some time since that area had been thoroughly cleared.

By the end of the day, we had the entire south side of the cemetery trimmed and cleaned up and had filled three dump trucks with brush and debris. It was a lot of work, but the difference is significant.

When time and schedules allow, we will return to tackle the east side of the cemetery and continue the cleanup.

