

Cemetery Commission
Minutes
October 14, 2025
10:00 am at the Granville Town Clerk's Office

I. Call to Order - 10:00a. In attendance: Vic Parrish & Kate Stauss, Commissioners; Dan Mutchler, Sexton; Cheryl Sargeant, Town Clerk.
Public: none
Secretary Kate Stauss requested that Vic Parrish chair the meeting in absence of Will Brokhov. Vic accepted.

II. **Minutes** of 9/19/25. Vic moved to approve minutes of 9/19/25 as written. Kate seconded.

III. **Financials** - Report on current financials. Not available.

IV. **Old Business**

A. Report of the Sexton and proposed contract

1. SEXTON'S REPORT

Sexton Dan Mutchler reported that early this summer Mark Belisle told him that a grave needed to be dug for Jonathan Belisle by the end of the week. Dan contacted the family members responsible for the interment and went to the Town Clerk to ascertain the gravesite. The map and assigned plot did not align with the family's knowledge of their plot. Dan had to balance the two versions and made the best choice in his estimation under the circumstances.

Because of time constraints, Dan decided he couldn't dig the grave by hand and rented a Dingo bucketloader which had to be trailered from a location "an hour and a half away." Dan paid \$1000 for the rental out of his own pocket and sought help from Kevin Bagley to finish digging the grave when the Dingo proved too small for the job. The funeral home sent a check for \$600 directly to Dan for his service as gravedigger. This was the end of Dan's involvement in the burial.

The family filled in the grave and approximately two months later cleared away the dirt that was left over from digging the grave. Dan believes that the family found comfort in removing the dirt themselves and wanted to use it on their own property. He noted that the extra dirt could also have been spread in low lying areas in the cemetery.

The Commission thanked Dan for doing the best he could under challenging circumstances and encouraged him to provide documentation of both the machinery rental and the payment from the funeral home, for record keeping and potential reimbursement.

Cheryl told the Commission that the plot has been recorded on the map.

2. CONTRACT - Vic provided materials from three other towns of Sexton contracts. She noted that Morristown is using Sentry Mapping service to discover what's below the surface in their cemeteries, an intriguing but expensive idea. Kate moved that the discussion about the contract be tabled until Will is present. Vic seconded. All in favor.

B. Review and Revision of Granville's Bylaws

Kate brought proposed revised versions of Section II and III, attached to these minutes. Discussion was tabled until Will is present.

Cheryl Sargeant clarified comments from the September 19, 2025 meeting about how Section III is supposed to be implemented concerning lots and lot owners: The corner markers are placed by the monument company hired by the plot owner. The plot owner, monument company and Cemetery Commissioners meet to confirm plot location, corners and headstone placement.

- Postponement of South Hollow Cemetery Community Cleanup

Due to the urgency of issues concerning the by-laws and sexton's contract occupying the Commission's time and delays in publicizing the event, we're postponing till spring.

- The following financial decisions from the 9/19/25 meeting were reviewed and confirmed: a Pay-Order to Will Brokhov \$343.63 for cleaning solution for the

gravestones and \$200 to Logan Cole for repair of the South Hollow Cemetery fence.
Kate moved and Vic seconded. All in favor.

5. New Business - none
6. Any other necessary business
7. Adjournment. 10:40a. November meeting to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Stauss
Secretary, Granville Cemetery Commission

PROPOSED

SECTION II: GENERAL RULES

The Town of Granville, a municipality, organized and existing under the laws of the state of Vermont, owns and operates Elmwood, North Hollow, and South Hollow cemeteries in accordance with the laws of the state of Vermont. It reserves the right to refuse the use of any of the cemetery facilities at any time to any person or persons whom the commission may deem objectionable to the best interest of the cemetery.

RULE 1

All fees or charges for services are payable at the Town Clerk's office as herein stated. Patrons of the cemetery are requested not to pay any fee or gratuity to any cemetery employee.

RULE 2

Respectful decorum is expected at all times in the cemetery. Visitors should use only designated roads and footpaths in the cemetery and should avoid walking upon or across lots. They should refrain from picking flowers, breaking or injuring all plantings, and defacing or damaging all structures within the cemetery. Lewd or loud behavior is strictly forbidden.

RULE 3

Vehicles are prohibited from parking on or driving through cemeteries unless their owners are performing necessary maintenance of gravesites or landscape or are paying respects to the interred. All vehicles should stay on designated roads, unless granted allowance by the sexton.

RULE 4

Decoration of lots and monuments with memorabilia, such as toys, chairs, and similar ornaments, is discouraged. The commission reserves the right to remove such objects.

RULE 5

The Commission reserves the right to adopt additional rules and regulations or to amend, alter or repeal and rule or regulation at any time. All alterations and amendments will be sufficiently warned.

This document reflects the following changes from the current Regulation document:

- Rule 1: stricken
- Rule 2: leave but must be complied
- Rules 3 & 4: combine and make more concise
- Rule 5: Instead of prohibited, explain what vehicles are appropriate and when
- Rule 6: stricken

- Rule 7: stricken
- Rule 8: stricken
- Rule 9: To be rewritten
- Rule 10: Combine with 3 & 4 and condense
- Rule 11 & 12: stricken
- Rule 13: simplify

PROPOSED

SECTION III. LOTS AND LOT OWNERS

RULE 1

Anyone who wishes to purchase a cemetery lot should contact the cemetery commissioners to aid them in making a selection and inform the sexton of the plot location as well as entering the information into Town records. Payment for the lot must be completed before burial takes place. All lots are reserved for human remains only.

RULE 2

The Commission reserves the right to enlarge, reduce, replat, or change the boundaries or topography - including roadways and footpaths - of the cemetery. Maintenance operations such as gutters, pipes and drainage are similarly reserved rights. The Commission members reserve the right of ingress and egress over lots as necessary.

RULE 3

Descriptions of lots will be in accordance with the cemetery plats which are kept on file in the Granville Town Office.

RULE 4

The Commission will take all reasonable precautions to protect lot owners and their cemetery property from loss or damage that is reasonably within control of the Commission. Damage caused by acts of God, malicious vandals or thieves, unavoidable accidents or similarly unforeseen disasters are considered outside of the Commission's reasonable control.

This document reflects the following changes from the current Regulation document:

- Rules 1 - 4 Combined
- Rule 5: Condense
- Rule 7: Condense
- Rule 8: Stricken
- Rule 9: Information to be included on "Cemetery Plot Purchase Agreement" instead.