

## **SEXTON'S REPORT**

June 2026

### **ELMWOOD CEMETERY:**

Status of the Elmwood Cemetery is much the same as when the commission and sexton visited in May. Flags are still plotted for the Bagley interment. Site appears to be in good repair with nothing needed aside from regular mowing.

Will need to address contract violations around Brown plot— there is a settee placed, as well as sun-bleached alcoholic beverage containers and weathered graveside decor items. Sexton suggests sending a letter to the contact person for the plot to let them know that anything in violation of the contract will be removed at the end of the commission's business year in November, and that future items placed in violation will be removed as they are found, and include a copy of the contract with the correspondence.

### **SOUTH HOLLOW CEMETERY:**

As with Elmwood, the status of South Hollow remains in the same condition as during the commission and sexton's visit in May.

There are obvious stones in need of repair, and the ground above graves is very uneven/sunken, but these issues are probably outside our ability to repair this year, and will need planning/funding in order to address these issues in the future. Sexton suggests trimming back some of the encroaching trees/plant life along the southeast corner before the stones in that area become obscured. She would be happy to take care of this with permission of the commission.

### **NORTH HOLLOW CEMETERY:**

The status of North Hollow remains the same condition as during the commission and sexton's visit in May. Much like the South Hollow location, the grounds of this cemetery are very sunken in some areas. The Riley Bostwick gravesite/stone is in particular need of repair. The ground at this site appears to have washed away, exposing a large portion of the stone's foundation. It is the sexton's opinion that the repair of this particular stone should be first priority when any maintenance of existing stones takes place, before the stone is undermined further and possibly topples, damaging it and causing the restoration to be more expensive.

Sexton has concerns regarding the beaver dam, and whether it may cause issues to the North Hollow site if this summer is especially wet, but she would request a second opinion from a nature conservation specialist before making any moves in regards to this issue.

A gravesite was dug on June 8th for the cremains interment of Fritz Peter Branschofsky. This interment was complicated by the stone being placed on the site prior to the grave being dug, so the sexton secured assistance and had the stone moved and the foundation gravel removed and reserved before having the gravesite dug. This site was

dug to a depth of 20 inches to account for the 4 inch tall receptacle and 12 inches of dirt, with the remainder accounting for the foundation gravel and stone.

The grave was visited on the 10th after the graveside ceremony to make sure the dirt replaced was level, allowed to settle in the rain on the evening on the 10th. The sexton returned on the 12th to complete the closing of the grave and replace the stone. The stone was placed about half an inch higher than the other stones in the plot to allow it to settle flush with the ground. Sexton will continue to monitor the site to ensure the stone settles properly and remains squared up with the other stones in the plot, and will propagate the moss that is found throughout the cemetery grounds around the perimeter of the stone if needed to prevent weeds growing in that area.

The flags plotted for the Jaesson interment remain in place.

### **ON THE CEMETERIES' TURF**

Both cemeteries in the hollows are in need of a mow, and have tall grasses that have gone to seed. Sexton suggests the possibility of seeding these cemeteries with clover to replace some or all of the grass. By doing this, we could cut down on the number of mows we need to maintain these sites, which would result in an improved appearance and make it easier for visitors to walk through the sites without kicking up a ton of bugs and ticks in the high grass. Clover would also support local pollinators and reduce the fossil fuels used for mowing, providing a cost savings for the town. If the commission is interested in pursuing this option, the sexton will prepare an estimate of the cost of seed and a plan to time seeding with the mowing schedule in order to overtake the existing grass.

Regards,  
Natalie Cassidy, Sexton  
6/14/2026