

Minutes

Wilmington Cemetery Commission

DATE	August 14, 2025
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TIME	4:43 PM
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MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Mr. Richard Khachadorian
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IN ATTENDANCE

Janet Boyd, Jennifer Goodell, Richard Khachadorian, Ralph Staib, Walter White

Sextons: John Boyd, Todd Stewart

Guests: Christine Richter

TOPICS

Veteran's Park

Burke Tree

Maintenance/Structures

Chandler Family Cemetery/Clerk's Letter

Cemetery Rules, Regulations and By-Laws

Sexton's Report

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes from the July 10th meeting was made by Mr. Richard Khachadorian.

This motion was seconded by Mr. Ralph Staib and unanimously passed.

VETERAN'S PARK

A storm water drain will be installed in Veteran's Park. This project will go out for bid in the fall. The project is estimated to cost about \$300,000. The T-Mobil grant for \$50,000 has been submitted. The state of Vermont could assist with funding if storm water run-off can be alleviated.

BURKE TREE

Regarding Ms. Patti Burke's concern over moving a tree in Riverside Cemetery (see meeting minutes dated July 10th), a motion was made by Mr. Richard Khachadorian; "I make a motion that we, the Cemetery Commission allow Mrs. Burke to plant a tree in the cemetery by her husband's grave." This motion was seconded by Mr. Ralph Staib. 4 Opposed-1 Abstain

MAINTENANCE

Restland- 8 stones have been repaired. It is the desire of the Commission to repair more.

Riverview- Several trees in need of limb removal.

Intervale/Cutting-Stone walls in need of repair. Several trees need to be pruned, some removed. It has been determined by the Commission these projects are the most urgent and need to be taken care of this year. A budget of \$10,000 was deemed reasonable. This motion was made by Mr. Walter White and seconded by Mr. Richard Khachadorian.

CHANDLER CEMETERY/CLERK'S LETTER

The commission received a letter from Ms. Patti Burke inquiring why a tree she planted fifteen years ago had been moved (see minutes and attachments from July 10th meeting). At the July 10th meeting, it was determined Ms. Jennifer Goodell would draft a letter and present it to the Commission (see attachment draft #1). It was determined the letter could be sent after Ms. Therese Lounsbury's email be added as another way for the property owners to be in contact (see attachment draft #2).

Ms. Jennifer Goodell explained that after researching property deeds back to 1833, no right of way could be found. Mr. Todd Stewart cited Vermont Cemetery Law chapter 121 sec 53.22:

a) Any person wishing to have a temporary right of entry over private land in order to enter a graveyard enclosure to which there is no public right-of-way may apply in writing to the selectboard or cemetery commissioners, as the case may be, state the reason for such request and the period of time for which such right is to be exercised. The applicant shall also notify in writing an owner or occupier of the land over which the right-of-way is desired. If the selectboard or cemetery commissioners find that the request is reasonable, they shall issue a permit for a temporary right of entry designating the particular place where, and the manner in which, the land may be crossed. The owner or occupier of the land may recommend a place of crossing which, if reasonable, shall be the place designated by the selectboard or cemetery commissioners.

(b) An owner or occupier of the land who refuses to comply with a permit issued under subsection (a) of this section may be liable for reasonable costs and attorney's fees expended to enforce the permit.

which will be executed if peaceful resolutions cannot be reached with the owner.

CEMETERY RULES, REGULATIONS AND BY-LAWS

After receiving Ms. Patti Burke's letter, the Commission deemed it might be necessary to review current rules and regulations as rephrasing may be required. Mr. Todd Stewart presented updated drafts (see attachments) to the Commission. The Commission agreed to read over and study them so a discussion could be had at the next meeting.

SEXTON'S REPORT

One lot was sold in Riverview. Mr. Radar's death certificate needs to be given to the Town Clerk. Lot marker placement at Riverview will be occurring for lots 441-444. Assistance will be required.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 PM.

NEXT MEETING

September 11, 2025, at 4:30, Wilmington Fire Department Conference Room.

The Cemetery Commision of Wilmington, Vermont
P.O. Box 217
Wilmington, Vermont 05363

July 23, 2025

Rakesh Sharma
Kara Bonitatibus
23 Witch Lane
Norwalk, CT 06853

Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

It has come to the attention of the Cemetery Commission Chandler Cemetery, which lies behind your domicile, is in need of maintenance. A maple tree is in need of pruning and several stones require repair. Our hope is to cooperate with you to preserve the history of our town and its families. We wish to speak with you via telephone during one of our meetings to coordinate a time for this work to occur and to address any concerns you have.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Goodell

Clerk, Cemetery Commission

draft 1

The Cemetery Commission of Wilmington, Vermont
P.O. Box 217
Wilmington, Vermont 05363

August 18, 2025

Rakesh Sharma
Kara Bonitatibus
23 Witch Lane
Norwalk, CT 06853

Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

It has come to the attention of the Cemetery Commission Chandler Cemetery, which lies behind your domicile, is in need of maintenance. A maple tree is in need of pruning and several stones require repair. Our hope is to cooperate with you to preserve the history of our town and its families. We wish to speak with you via telephone during one of our meetings to coordinate a time for this work to occur and to address any concerns you have. Please feel free to contact our town clerk, Therese Lounsbury, at 802.464.5836 ext. 115 or via email, tlounsbury@wilmingtonvt.us

Respectfully,
Jennifer Goodell
Clerk, Cemetery Commission

Cc Therese Lounsbury, Town Clerk

final draft