

St. Johnsbury Cemetery Commission
October 9, 2025

The St. Johnsbury Cemetery Commission met at the town conference room. In attendance were Bryan LeBlanc, Tim Clouatre, Lauren Järvi, Karen Budde and Andy Dussault

Meeting called to order by Lauren at 8:03 AM.

Andy reviewed his and Karen's sleuthing through old Town Reports for more details on when the Ayer-Hawkins cemetery property came into town hands. Their efforts were valiant but not productive. We agreed to use the following language on the sign to be made by the Lincoln Sign Company-
Front Ayer-Hawkins Cemetery First Burial 1807 Back Land donated by the Ayer, Hawkins and Robinson families Town of St Johnsbury. And the other sign **-Centervale Cemetery Incorporated November 10, 1863 Back Town of St Johnsbury**

Bryan moved to approve the minutes from our August 14. Seconded by Tim. Approved by B & T.

Karen provided us with her comprehensive report including the many items she's attended to during the past two months. There are still things that will require her attention, including confirming the Enter and Exit signs to be place at Grove and CV, ongoing work with DPW at multiple locations, etc. She fielded an inquiry regarding a family green burial on their own land. Currently the town doesn't have an ordinance on this. It is not something that belongs under the purview of the Cemetery Commission and she's redirecting the matter to Chad for the Select Board to consider.

We discussed leaving the cemetery gates open until after Veteran's Day, weather permitting.

Karen has drafted a notice to be posted on Front Porch Forum, in a letter to the editor in the Cal Re and elsewhere notifying families of our policies regarding Plantings and Decorations in the town owned cemeteries. We agreed that this was both appropriate and timely as things need to be cleaned up in advance of winter.

We went into Executive Session at 8:42 upon a motion by Tim, seconded by Bryan and approved by T & B. to discuss a potential legal matter. We returned to open session where Tim moved that we approve spending up to \$1,000 to have the Dillon family upright memorial at the Grove relocated to the front of their lot, in line with the others along the roadway, and distant from the Smith family lot. Seconded by Bryan and approved by T & B. Tim will contact Steve at Anair to see about getting this work done this fall. Karen will make a record of her extensive efforts to contact the Dillon family over multiple months.

We briefly reviewed the financials from FY2025 and see that we slightly underspent our budget. The excess amount \$1,353 will be placed in the reserve account for future needs.

Lauren reported that Truline has put the CV survey on their tentative spring schedule.

Bryan moved to adjourn at 9:10, seconded by Tim. Approved by B&T.

Our next meeting will be on November 13