

St. Johnsbury Cemetery Commission  
April 17, 2025

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

Meeting called to order by Lauren at 8:06 AM.

Tim moved to approve the minutes from our February 13 meeting. Seconded by Bryan. Approved by B & T.

We discussed the mowing and maintenance that DPW does for our now four town cemeteries. Last summer was particularly challenging for the crew and the department due to multiple flooding events that consumed much of their time and attention. Barring similar events this year Steve assured us that the intent is to stay on top of mowing, and to the extent possible to work on other maintenance projects, particularly in the newly acquired cemetery north of the Green Mountain Mall. We agreed to provide a list of what we'd like them to attend to, and they'll work on these items as time and crew availability allow. Steve will see to the barriers moved out of the way so that the cemetery is accessible. Steve also agreed to include with the new employee training for those who will be mowing that they understand that the cemeteries are important and valued properties and particular attention should be paid to not damaging or dislodging in the process of mowing and trimming. A tone of respect will be set for the mowing staff in their training.

Tim made a motion to hire Andy Dussault to complete a boundary survey of the St Johnsbury Center Cemetery, with a fee of up to \$4,000. Bryan seconded the motion and it was approved by T&B. The funds for this project will come from the account held at LPL Financial that were previously owned by the cemetery.

Andy has done considerable research on the historical name for that cemetery and confirmed that the property could appropriately be referred to as the Centervale Cemetery. Bryan moved to establish the name Centervale Cemetery to be used henceforth. Seconded by Tim and approved by B&T.

Tim made a motion to contract with Lincoln Sign Company to design and make two signs for us, one for the newly designated Centervale Cemetery and one for the Ayer-Hawkins Cemetery. The latter will have the language that is currently shown on an aging sign at the Cemetery regarding Revolutionary War soldiers being buried there. These signs will match the ones currently at the Grove and Center Village Burying Ground. Seconded by Bryan and approved by T&B. Laure will contact Lincoln Sign and make arrangements. Andy had located this company as the one we'd used before seems to no longer be in business.

Karen reported that because Mr. Cyr was not a regular active duty soldier the VA will not provide a free marker for him. She will follow up with Anair to see about getting a modest monument to mark his location at the Centervale Cemetery. We are apparently responsible for attending to this as more than three years have passed since his burial.

Karen continues to work on the Eaton plot issue. Apparently Derby Line Cemetery has a plot for the family and she'll confirm that Mr. Eaton obtained a burial permit for his mother who may or may not have been reinterred there after having been removed from the Grove lot. As he never obtained a removal permit from us and our recollections are that despite having moved the family monument to Derby he said he was not able to locate her urn here. Tim will reach out to him to see if this issue can be finally resolved.

In addition Karen tells us she has reviewed and digitized all of the cards and deeds for Centervale that were passed along from Dale Dublois, and is working with Sam to accomplish this. She referred to the project as "quite an undertaking". We understand this and appreciate the time and attention both Karen and Sam are taking on it.

Finally Karen will do outreach to encourage local volunteers to help with green-up/clean-up this spring. She will coordinate this effort.

Tim will also try to contact the Dillon family regarding the location of the family monument at the Grove and it's proximity to the Smith family burials.

Tim moved to adjourn at 9:17. Seconded by Bryan Approved by T & B

Our next meeting will be on May 8.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ajFBgJ6Muk4FNInxgZi-ifJcZjydgpw8VWtkoQ9ms3U2puo3QOjBKuQkioYTSxbJ.ga6Md\\_BcF783wyef](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ajFBgJ6Muk4FNInxgZi-ifJcZjydgpw8VWtkoQ9ms3U2puo3QOjBKuQkioYTSxbJ.ga6Md_BcF783wyef)  
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