

WILLIAMSTOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION

March 26, 2026 * * Minutes - Draft

Present: Matt Couillard CH, Susan Lyons, Daphne Herwig, Matt Walker, Joe & Kaira Mangan
Guest:

The Meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M. at the Town Office.

Minutes: Minutes from Nov. 20, 2025 were reviewed. Motion made by Daphne H. to accept with corrections, 2nd by Matt W. Approved.

Budget Status Report Dated: March 23, 2026 – was presented and reviewed.

Warrants: None

Income: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Matt C. Shall we re-organize and appoint officers. We usually do this the first meeting after Town Meeting. We will need Motions made.

Susan L. I'll make a Motion to appoint Matt Couillard as Chair. 2nd by Daphne H. All approved.
I'll make a Motion to appoint Matt Walker as Vice-Chair. 2nd by Daphne H. All approved.

Matt W. I'll make the Motion to appoint Susan L. as Secretary. 2nd by Daphne H. All approved.

Matt C. Everyone have a chance to review the minutes from Nov. 20, 2025. Any questions?

Daphne H. On page 2 – there is a blank space? Asked Matt C. if he remembered what he was saying?

Matt C. It had to do with the budget and the interest from Perpetual Care – Orvil would prefer that we took it out of the budget.

Susan L. I can't rewind the tape without it going all the way back to the beginning.

Daphne H. That's O.K. I'll make the Motion to accept the Minutes with corrections.
2nd by Matt W. all approved. Passed.

Matt C. Is everything the same on the Budget Status Report?

Susan L. Yes, pretty much the same as last time.

I wanted to share that we received a check in the mail today from Virtus Funds in the amount of \$210.03. Passed the copy around.

Joe M. Asked the board if any of us had seen the \$5.00 fee that the legislature is trying to pass. They are asking for a \$5.00 fee for any burial or cremation. It is a special fee that will go into a Vandalism Fund. Handed us a copy that he had. The Town will need to send this in to the State every year.

Susan L. How is this supposed to benefit our Town if the money is sent into the state?

Daphne H. We have insurance for that I believe.

Joe M. There will be paperwork involved.

Discussion followed. Who introduced this Bill? How to prove vandalism? How does this benefit us? Not impressed with this!

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- Joe M. Not sure if it has been voted on yet. It is something that is in the works. Just more paperwork for us.
- Susan L. I already gave Joe a copy of our projected cemetery burials – there are 7 so far – and he said that the Hooker Funeral home had sent him info on two also. It's going to be busy. There are a couple of families that want to know if there is room for cremation burials on their family lots. They are asking us for permission if space is available. Joe and I have looked at these inquiries and it looks like we will be able to. (No extra charge on the internment fees as they are relatives.)
- Joe M. Are these private burials to be done by the families or is a funeral home doing them?
- Susan L. I also wanted to ask about fencing for the Village Cemetery. I spoke to Mike MacAskill at Town Meeting and he said that he would be happy to do it but wouldn't be able to get to it until July. But we can get started and get a quote and get started on asking for the money.
- Matt W. Yes – it took a few months last year to get it rolling.
- Matt C. Gary Storrs did tell me that now he knows how to do it – it should be a little quicker to get it.
- Discussion followed. Yes – ask Mike to get us a quote. On the whole thing – or just the top – or just the bottom part. Get separate quotes on each would be good. The brush needs to be trimmed along the top fence – ask him if wanted to do that also. Also ask Mike to check out the condition of the posts in the bottom field to see what condition they are in. We still have some material left over from last year stored at the Town Garage. Screws are in the Town Office. If we could get it all done this year it would be good. The fence on Henry Road will need to be replaced also – maybe next year.
- Susan L. I will bring back the quote to our meeting.
- Matt C. What about the flags?
- Susan L. Well we have the case from last year and you had mentioned that we might as well use us the flags that have the smaller stick. The big flag in the Village should be good for another year. Usually get two years out of them.
I want to mention that I might be out of town for the April meeting. Would anyone object to changing it to April 30th? I will make sure that it is warned about the date change.
I also spoke with John Perkins at Town Meeting and he mentioned that he might want to join us again. He's not here tonight – but I can reach out to him to see if he was serious. If he is we will need to bring a letter to the Selectboard for approval.
- Matt C. Anything else?
- Susan L. I'll make a Motion to adjourn. 2nd by Matt W.. - - All agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Next Meeting: April 30, 2026
