

CONCORD CEMETERY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

5:30 p.m.

Concord Municipal Building MEETING MINUTES

Members Present

Christopher Fournier
Linda Blakslee
Bill Humphrey

Sexton

William Gilding

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Bill Humphrey.

Approval of Agenda

Chris Fournier made a motion to approve the agenda, Linda Blakslee seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

Approval of Minutes

Chris Fournier made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2025 meeting, Linda Blakslee seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

Sexton Update/Informational Session

Bill Gilding had asked the Cemetery Committee to allow him to hire someone to dig graves and cremation sites. When he was interviewed he believed that the sexton would be more of a Clerk of the Works and would oversee the work of the digging. Overlook Cemetery was a challenge to dig. As he is still physically able to do it and because he wants to make sure that the cemetery fund is solvent, he would like to withdraw his request to hire someone to dig graves. Approval was given.

Bill Gilding gave an update on the contract with All Funeral Services. One of the problems that they have run into is the lack of resolution of the footage from Google Earth. Bill presented a sample of the drone shot. All Funeral Services would like to hire an out of state drone operator to fly over the cemeteries and get better resolution pictures to assist in mapping the cemetery boundaries and headstones. Fee would be \$850.00 per cemetery for a total of \$1,700.00 for a drone company to be hired. Bill is requesting approval of the committee and final approval by the Selectboard. Discussion was had concerning funds. Chris Fournier made a motion to request \$1,700.00 for drone mapping of both Concord Public Cemetery and the New Overlook Cemetery. Linda Blakslee seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0-0. Chris Fournier will make a request at the Selectboard meeting.

Bill Gilding would like to remove the cost of the weekend and holiday burial fees of \$250.00. There is no out of pocket cost to the Town of Concord. It is easier for Bill to do weekends, as he works during the week. Linda Blakslee made a motion to remove the weekend and Holiday fees of \$250.00. Chris Fournier seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0-0.

Bill Gilding presented an estimate from Guest Memorial for the cost of replacing two headstones that are severely damaged and need to be replaced. The removal of the old stones for Abner E. Stacy is \$1,575 and other stone for Myron D. Chandler is \$1,040 and \$400.00 for removal and installation. A total amount of \$2,985. Linda Blakslee made a motion to bring this issue to the board to replace both stones for a total cost of \$2,985.00. Chris Fournier seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0. Chris Fournier will bring to Selectboard.

Bill Gilding presented a service from All Funeral Services. They would be able to add to the Concord Town website an option for people to buy flowers and have them placed on grave sites. The other service they could offer is headstone washing. There would be an upfront fee of \$5.00 to the Town, then we could add an additional fee to cover the costs with a portion going back to the Town. Tabled for now.

Linda Blakslee and Bill Gilding presented a request for a corrective deed to the Mildred Garfield family for a cemetery lot. The Garfields are buried in Lot 6A. They also purchased Lot 6B and Lot 7A. Knights were buried in Lot 6B and Joyal and Grenier were buried in Lot 7A. To make up for the error they have been offered Lot 7B, which has five grave sites. Sharon Mooney is the oldest daughter of Mildred Garfield and would like a deed for Lot 7B. Discussion was had as to who should be named on the deed as Mildred Garfield is now deceased. Should the deed go to Sharon Mooney and heirs and assigns of Mildred Garfield? Lyndonville has a document that authorizes what family members can be buried in a plot. This was not a suitable option for Concord. Bill Gilding mentioned that the names on the deed is what one brother is concerned about. Audra has a draft deed. Committee members would need to sign a deed. Committee tabled action for now, but agree that the discrepancy should be fixed. Bill Gilding will check with Sharon Mooney as to who would be on the deed.

Linda Blakslee mentioned that an article was in the North Star Monthly dated June, 2025 called, "A Small-Town Sexton Charts a New Path for Concord's Cemeteries. Members had seen the article.

Adjournment

Chris Fournier motions to adjourn. Linda Blakslee seconds. Motion carried 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 5:52 pm.