

TOWN OF CHARLESTON
Cemetery Commission Meeting 04/10/2025

MINUTES

A meeting of the town Cemetery Commission was held April 10, 2025. Attending were Commission Members Sherman Allen Jr., Janice Bowen, Grace Frizzell, and Martin Davis; Sexton/Laborer Brad Peters; Town Clerk & Treasurer Teri Gray; and Asst. Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

Chairperson Sherman Allen called the meeting to order at 5pm and welcomed all attendees.

The first order of business was to elect a Chair for the year. Sherm Allen was nominated by Martin Davis and seconded by Janice Bowen. Seeing no other nominations, Allen was elected Chair for the year.

In reviewing minutes of the November 14, 2024 meeting, Sherm Allen corrected a typo in the first line of the third to last paragraph where the words “him about” should be removed. Janice Bowen moved to approve the minutes as edited. The motion was seconded by Allen, and the minutes were approved as edited. There were no changes to the agenda or public comments.

Sherman Allen asked members to allow Brad Peters to speak on all matters, and all agreed.

Peters said he has not yet heard about placement of flags on veterans’ graves, but the school knows how to contact him. With the addition of Russell Hinton and James Sloan, 200 flags will be placed. Flags were purchased a couple of weeks ago, and Sherm Allen will let Peters know as soon as he gets them. Peters said he will add staples this year to make them stronger. He also mentioned that Owen Reilly also puts up flags as part of the VFW in Island Pond.

Regarding Laborer Coverage for the season, Martin Davis said he and Steven Davis can do the same thing as last year if it is okay with Brad Peters. Treasurer Teri Gray reminded commissioners that wages were set at \$17/hour at the previous meeting.

Under Equipment Needs, the Chair asked about a weed trimmer that might need replacement. Brad Peters said it has a lot of hours on it. He also said there is someone who may donate one; they told Brad to ask if it is needed. Commission members are aware that replacement will be coming and is within budget.

Under Fencing & Repairs, Brad Peters said fencing work at Hillside near Duane Moulton’s is up in the air because Moulton’s equipment broke, and he was unable to dig post holes last year. He will talk with Moulton and find out if holes must be dug by hand. If so, he will rent a 2-man

auger, and Darald Moulton said he would help. Sherm Allen said the budget should cover the rental. Peters said there are ruts in front of Hillside—probably made by the tree service— where he will need to put sod into the ruts. He will also need to replace and straighten a couple of posts at Bly that were pushed over by state plowing.

The Chair asked about Crawford Hill and Morrill Cemeteries. Peters said a few posts at Crawford need attention; he will replace them with some metal ones from Hillside. He started cleaning stones at Morrill last year, and there is a tree that will probably need to come down. This would be a board decision. No grass grows under it, and it could damage the small fence. and no grass grows there. Landowner Alan Eliason said he could ask loggers to cut the tree when he has the area logged.

Under Other Items Needed, Brad Peters said the cemeteries are all set on posts. He asked if he should tar over an area of the shed roof to protect it until new shingles are installed in 2026. All members agreed this was a good idea, and they asked Peters to use his own discretion about what is needed this year. Peters confirmed that gates and locks were okay. He said nothing else special will be needed; he will buy gas, blades for hillside mower, and have gas/oil filters replaced and oil changed. Asked how the new John Deere mower is performing, Peters said it is good and fast, but it does not mulch, so he uses the old Husqvarna for that.

Sherman Allen suggested setting the 2025 Fall meeting for Thursday, November 13th at 5:00pm, and all members agreed. The Clerk's Office will work with members on the agenda in October. By agreement of all members, the annual meetings will continue to be held in April.

Seeing no other new or old business to discuss, Janice Bowen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Grace Frizzell, and the meeting adjourned at 5:26pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherman Allen, Jr., Chairperson

Approved this 13th day of November 2025:
