

Town of Dummerston Cemetery Committee

Minutes of 5/18/2026 meeting

Present: Priscilla Adler, Eliza Bergh, Cheryl Wilfong

Sue Miller from Dummerston Center Cemetery

Michelle Cherrier

Priscilla called the meeting to order at 11:00.

We combed over the draft regulations and made several changes. That revised document is attached.

We will reconvene to review the attached draft on 5/27/2026 at 12:30 p.m.

At 12:30, Eliza moved that the meeting be adjourned. Priscilla seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Wilfong, secretary

Rules and Regulations for Active Dummerston Cemeteries as of May 18, 2026

Season of Operation runs from May 1 through December 1, or as conditions allow. Green burials can occur during the winter with approval of the Dummerston Cemetery Committee, but only in an accessible Taft cemetery plot.

Active Cemetery. An active cemetery is one currently accepting burials; at this date those are Taft and Wilder.

Requirements For Burial. At time of burial, a burial transit permit or a certificate of

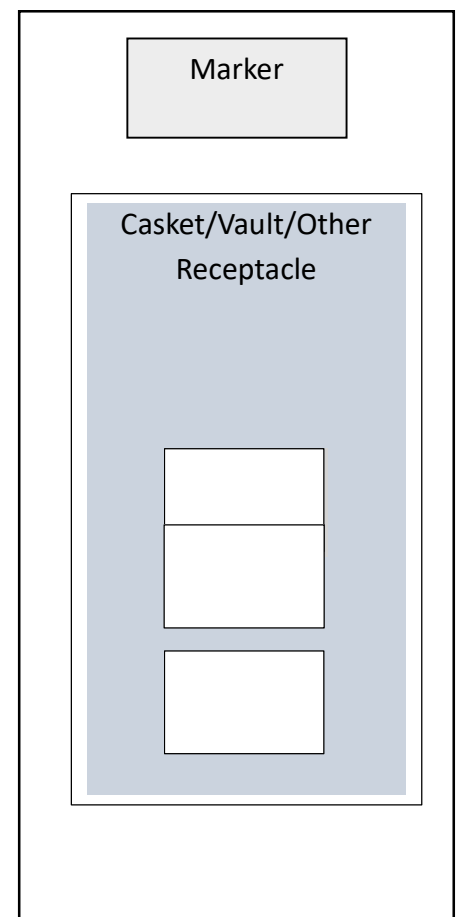
cremation must be presented by a funeral director or person in charge of the burial to the Town Clerk or a Cemetery Committee member or their designee prior to interment. This is required by Vermont State Law.

Cornerstones Required. Flat stone or concrete corner markers shall be provided by the person buying the plot(s) at the time the plot is purchased. The upper surface of the cornerstone shall not exceed 6" square and shall be at least 6" deep. Cornerstones will be set flush with the grade. The town will install the four corner markers provided by the lot owner. Certificates will be withheld until cornerstones are in place.

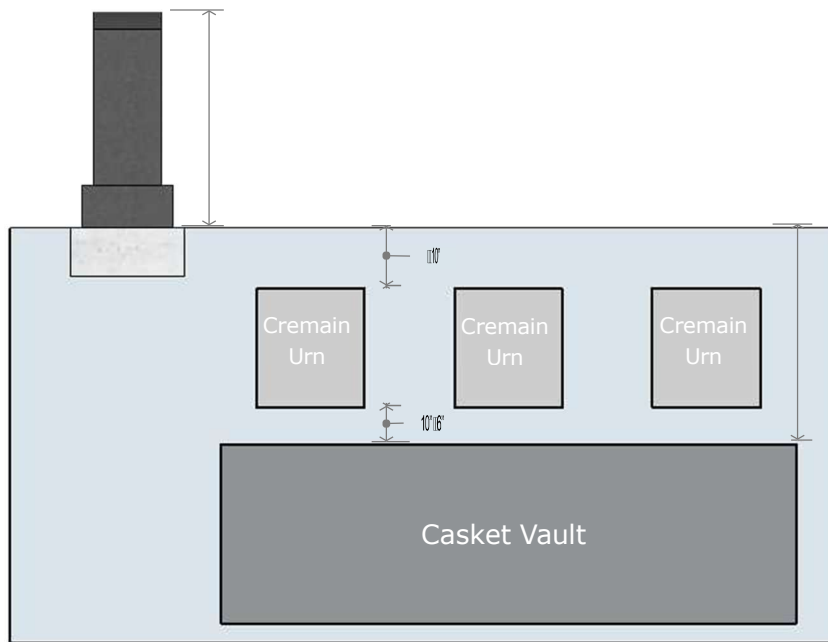
Grave Plot Size. Grave plots will be 4'x10' to accommodate the remains of the human dead buried in a grave, a vault, or other receptacle at a depth of 6 feet. Alternatively the plot can accommodate up to 4 cremains. Up to 3 inurned cremains may be buried on top of a casket by the plot owners, providing the urns are at least 6 inches above the top of the casket and at least 10 inches below the surface. Cremains not in urns may be added to the soil above a casket or urns by the plot owners.

Cemetery Certificate. A cemetery certificate is a contract between the Town of Dummerston and the holder of the certificate. The certificate grants the right to interment in a specified Dummerston Town cemetery lot and is contingent upon adherence to current Town of Dummerston cemetery committee rules and regulations.

Monuments/Markers. All new headstones or monuments shall be made of stone, cement or bronze excepting historical replacements. No other above ground structures, such as cairns, are allowed. Markers of any kind provided by the National Cemetery Administration are allowed. Permission from the Dummerston Cemetery Committee is required for headstones taller than 6 feet. Each plot may contain one headstone or monument; the marker shall be placed at the head of the plot, in line with the layout of the cemetery. The marker may not be in contact with the urn or coffin below nor disturb the cornerstones. All decedents interred in a plot(s) must be identified with name and dates on appropriate marker(s). Flat



plaques/markers should be flush to the ground and properly anchored.



SIDE View

Green Burials. Green burials are permissible in any purchased Town of Dummerston cemetery plot. A headstone shall mark the plot in the usual manner, and cornerstones are required. Vermont law requires that green burial graves be dug to a minimum of 3 1/2 feet below the ground's surface. No cremains are allowed on top of green burials.

Perpetual Care. Perpetual care refers specifically to the maintenance of cemetery lawns and access roads. Perpetual care is paid for by cemetery fees collected, town funds voted in at Town Meeting, and donations. **Perpetual care does not include stone repair or resetting.**

Veterans Flags. American Flags will be put on the graves of Veterans in time for Memorial Day. Since cremation certificates do not contain information about military service, please be sure to give this information to the Town of Dummerston Cemetery Committee or the Town Clerk.

Purchase of Plots. All plots can be purchased through the Town Clerk or Cemetery Committee in the Town of Dummerston for a fee per single plot.

Transfer/Use of Plots to Third Parties. Transfer (or sale) of plots or parts of plots to a third person shall be reported to the Town of Dummerston Cemetery Committee

for recording before the third person shall be allowed to use same. In the case of multiple owners, all must agree to the transfer and a written notice signed by all parties filed with the Town Clerk prior to transfer.

Reversion of Graves to Cemetery. Whenever a vacant plot has not been used and appears to have been abandoned for any reason for at least 20 years, and the Town of Dummerston Cemetery Committee has tried to locate or ascertain the intentions of the owner(s), the plot shall revert to the cemetery in accordance with Vermont law [18 VSA § 5533-5536].

Damage. Any damage done to driveways within the cemetery by any vehicle drawing monuments or any other materials shall be repaired by the contractor, or the expense of repairs shall be charged to the owner of the plots responsible for the work. Owners and drivers of motor vehicles shall be responsible for any damage done by them to trees, shrubs, or plots, and for damages to any monument or other structure done by them or by their employees.

Authority to Increase Fees. When necessary, in order that the cemeteries be self-sustaining, the Town of Dummerston Cemetery Committee may increase the prices of plots in the cemeteries. Similarly, the Committee may change the price of burial fees and affix new prices thereto.

Visitor Regulations

- **Permanent tree or shrub plantings** are prohibited in Dummerston cemeteries.
- **Planting flowers** (annuals or perennials) in beds within plots is allowed and such shall be contained within 14" of the front face of the base of the monument and not exceeding the width of the base of the monument. Gardeners, plot owners, or others employed by them to plant flowers shall remove all trash and leftover materials once the project is complete. No on-site receptacles for said removal are provided, and disposing of this material on or near the cemetery grounds is prohibited.
- **Floral Arrangements.** No limit is placed on the number of floral arrangements allowed to remain at the grave site after a burial. Floral designs and cut flowers shall be removed from plots by the owner or as part of perpetual maintenance as the arrangements become unsightly.
- **Plastic and other artificial flowers** are discouraged. Absolutely no artificial flowers are to be inserted directly into the ground in the cemeteries. If they are, they will be removed and discarded. This is to prevent pieces of artificial flowers from scattering around the cemetery. Artificial flowers need to be in durable, non-plastic containers and need to be picked up before the snow falls. The placement of photographs, ribbons, or other mementos is discouraged. No plastic wreaths are allowed.
- **Glass** and other breakable containers are prohibited on the grounds of the cemetery.
- **Enclosures.** No enclosure of any cemetery plot by a fence, chain, or curbing shall be allowed.

- **Objects interfering** with the maintenance of the cemetery grounds will be removed by the workers. Christmas trees are not allowed.
- **Natural wreaths are allowed** and will be removed after the holiday season.
- **Jack-o'-lanterns, gourds, and other fall decorations must be removed** before the December 1.
- **Cemetery Committee** reserves the right to remove any gravesite decorations that become unsightly.

Anything placed on any plot in violation of these regulations will be removed by the members of the Cemetery Committee or their designees and disposed of.

Appendix: Fee Schedule

- **Cost of Plots.** \$400
- **Cost of Cornerstones.** Market value; cost is borne by the plot purchaser.
- **Cost of Green Burials** – Green burials may incur an extra charge at the time of the burial.
- **Dumping** will be subject to a civil fine of \$200.