Dummerston Cemetery Committee Minutes

May 27, 2026

Present: Priscilla Adler, Eliza Bergh, Cheryl Wilfong

Sue Miller from the Dummerston Center Cemetery

Priscilla called the meeting to order at 12:20.

Eliza reported that she went to Wilder cemetery to look at the large Morrison plot. It is okay for cremains because it is on ledge. (And near the road.)

Terry Chapman, Selectboard member, had a metal rod to test the depth of the soil.

Terry Chapman said that in a green burial, the grave is lined with green boughs under the body. Then green boughs are laced over the body, and lime is sprinkled in the grave. She said that animals can dig up a body that is 3' deep. As the boughs and body deteriorate, the grave will sink.

We assume the dirt will be mounded up on the grave to counteract the sinking, but sinking may still occur.

Cheryl will ask Penfield Chester whether the boughs and lime are true, as it is not her (Cheryl's) experience.

If there is no undertaker for a green burial, then the Dummerston Cemetery Committee becomes the undertaker.

The Cemetery Committee (who exactly?) sets the cornerstones.

Although Lee Chamberlin has taken responsibility for marking and mapping gravesites, he will be retiring soon. Then who will be responsible for the marking the plots with metal stakes and maintaining the maps of the cemeteries?

Also, who is responsible for cleaning up the graves afterward.

We might recommend that the Selectboard designate a "sexton"--a Cemetery Caretaker for the Dummerston Cemetery Committee.

Eliza will be leaving the Cemetery Committee after the Selectboard approves of the new green burial regulations. Cheryl Wilfong will also leave the committee.

Who might we recruit for new members?

We discussed the American flags on the graves of veterans.

The Fire Department puts out the flags before Memorial Day. They receive a list from the VFW. Flag stands are available from the VA, and it is each family's responsibility to obtain a flag stand.

The flags are left out all year until they are replaced the following year.

The Elks has a mailbox in which to deposit discarded flags. Then the Elks dispose of the tattered flags appropriately.

We should request that the new addition to Taft cemetery be professionally laid out.

Eliza can map Wilder with the available information and maps.

Priscilla will place the green burial regulations on the Selectboard agenda for June 24.

Cheryl will write an article for Views of Dummerston.

We adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Wilfong