

Marlboro Cemetery Commission

MEETING MINUTES – APPROVED

Wednesday, December 4, 2025

4:09 – 6:00 PM

Marlboro Town Office

Respectfully Submitted by Hollis Burbank-Hammarlund

Commissioners present: Marcia Hamilton, Hollis Burbank-Hammarlund, Sally White

Also present: Forrest Holzapfel-Marlboro Town Clerk

Meeting called to order at 4:09 PM.

Minutes of the April 29, 2025 were reviewed and approved by unanimous vote.

It was agreed that the email: MarlboroCemeteryCommission@gmail.com will be the official email for this body.

Review of Summer/Fall 2025 Cemetery Work/Activities:

King Cemetery (historic and new):

- Stone repair work in the historic King Cemetery was completed by Shea Monument Company at a cost of \$1,000; all stones are now standing upright (FYI: There are 181 graves in the historic King Cemetery).
- 22 plots were sold in the new King Cemetery in 2025, cornerstones were installed in almost all of these plots, and two burials (one green burial and one cremains burial) took place in 2025.
- Jeff Burt carried out mowing, trimming, spring/fall clean up work totaling \$1,850 (includes care of both historic and new King Cemetery areas). The new section needed frequent mowing (13 times) due to the dense, fast-growing clover.
- Note: Jeff's invoices for 2023 and 2024 work at the King Cemetery were submitted and paid in 2025.
- Forrest discussed the potential need to trim up (or remove) the large trees surrounding the historic cemetery to prevent damage to the cemetery; he will speak with Green Mountain Power about the situation and report back to the Commission.
- Hollis discussed the possibility planting several dogwood trees as originally envisioned for the new King Cemetery. She will investigate costs and report back the Commission.

Clark Warren Cemetery:

- Alan Young cared for the cemetery; work included mowing, trimming and fallen tree removal. Cost of his services for 2025 was \$900.

Marlboro Center Cemetery:

- Conner Hamilton mowed this cemetery 6 times in 2025 for a total cost of \$2,250, but did no trim or spring/fall cleanup work. This needs to be addressed in 2026. Sally will prepare more detailed guidelines for trimming and spring/fall cleanup work and report back to the Commission; the Cemetery Commission will relay that information to Conner.
- Stone repair work was completed by Shea Monument Company at a cost of \$2,000; additional work is needed in 2026 to complete all repairs.

Consideration of the Idea to “reserve” a certain portion of the new King Cemetery exclusively for Marlboro-related residents:

- While the new King Cemetery is currently open to everyone regardless of residency/relationship with Marlboro, Hollis inquired about the idea of designation/reserving a certain percentage (e.g. 75%) of the cemetery plots for people ‘affiliated with Marlboro’. Discussion included the ‘what if’ scenario of another Covid-like pandemic and limited space for green burial. And the fact that Marlboro residents pay taxes to support the cemetery. The sense of the Commission was to track plot sales (for now) and revisit this issue in 2026, or in the event of another pandemic.

2026 Cemetery Budget:

- The Commission reviewed all the expenses from 2025 cemetery care for all three cemeteries. Marcia presented an Excel spreadsheet, which Hollis will update.
- Proposed expenditures for 2026 include the following:
 - Clark Warren Cemetery:
 - Stone repair work: \$2,000
 - Mowing, trimming, spring/fall cleanup: \$1,200
 - King Cemetery (historic and new):
 - Tree branch trimming: \$750
 - Mowing, trimming, spring/fall cleanup: \$1,850
 - Metal detector: \$120
 - Plaque on new King Cemetery: \$400
 - Center Cemetery:
 - Stone repair: \$2,000
 - Mowing: \$2,200
 - Spring cleanup: \$TBD
 - Fall cleanup: \$TBS
 - Trimming: \$TBD
 - Other/Miscellaneous:
 - Veterans Markers (30): \$600
- Hollis questioned whether the Cemetery Commission should explore the possibility of applying--*towards annual cemetery costs*—some funds now being held in a CD from the Clark Warren Association transfer to the Town (\$35,000) and/or funds totaling \$22,850 from the sale of new King Cemetery plots. The goal would be to offset the impact on Marlboro taxpayers in 2026. It was noted that when plots are sold in the new King Cemetery, the cost (\$500 cremains/\$1,000 green) covers

the perpetual care of the cemetery, so funding from sales should be used towards that purpose. Commission members thought this is worthwhile to explore and Hollis will contact the Town Treasurer about this.

The next meeting of the Commission was not planned; it will occur on an 'as-needed' basis. Items added to that agenda include:

1. Approve minutes of December 4, 2025 meeting
2. Other TBD

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.