

Cemetery Meeting Minutes
Cemetery Trustees & DPW Staff
October 16, 2025

The meeting was called to order in the Sunnycrest Conference Room in the Town Hall at 6:01pm.

In attendance:

Cemetery Trustees –Cara Dunn (2026) & Laura El Azem (2028)

DPW Staff - Dave Wholley & Denise Manella

Old Business

Pleasant View Cemetery Land Donation: There is a parcel of land (7 Litchfield Road) that goes right up to the back side of Pleasant View Cemetery. The developer wants to donate the land to the cemetery for possible expansion. There are no stipulations. Having the land will help protect this historic cemetery. All 3 Cemetery Trustees are in favor of accepting the land donation. Dave has not heard from the developer. He said he would be in touch. Dave will give an update when he hears anything. **This item is open.**

Presales: Presales were put on hold on July 1, 2024, and it has been going well. This will remain in place. **This item is closed.**

Weekend Overtime Rate: The DPW has been paying the overtime costs associated with weekend urn burials. All 3 Cemetery Trustees are in favor of imposing a \$300 weekend urn burial rate. This was effectively implemented on July 1, 2025, and is working well. **This item is closed.**

36 Gilcreast Road: This is a new development with 250 rental homes that abuts Pillsbury Cemetery. Dave spoke to the builders about a barrier between the houses and the cemetery. He suggested an earthen berm or a grassy knoll that would function as a natural landscape barrier. This item was not discussed but remains open.

This item is open.

Signs for all Cemeteries: The purpose of this project is to make the signs uniform at all 7 cemeteries in Londonderry. The design is done. At this time, only Glenwood, Pillsbury and Pleasant View will get new signs. Dave will send a copy of the design to the Cemetery Trustees. The remaining cemetery signs will be replaced later. This item was not discussed but remains open. **This item is open.**

Descendant Burials: There are occasions when plots are sold and everyone on the deed is deceased. This can cause issues because we do not know who is supposed to be buried in the lot. We will find a procedure to deal with these instances. At this time, the descendant will have to prove that they have rights to the lot. Cara suggested that we may want to get legal advice about how to proceed with proving descendant rights. This item was not discussed but remains open.

This item is open.

New Business

Green Burials: Several cemetery staff attended the New Hampshire Cemetery Association Annual Meeting. During the meeting, we obtained information about Green Burials. Green burials are an environmentally friendly alternative to traditional funerals that return the body to the earth naturally, without embalming, vaults, or toxic materials. Key characteristics include using a biodegradable container or shroud, and a burial that enriches the soil. These burials can be more affordable, save on resources, and may be offered in dedicated natural burial grounds or in specific sections of traditional cemeteries. The trustees will do some research to see if Green Burials will be feasible for the future in Pillsbury Cemetery.

This item is open.

Columbariums: A columbarium is a structure with niches for holding urns containing cremated remains. Its function is to provide a compact, dignified, and permanent resting place for the deceased. The biggest problem with a columbarium is the upfront cost associated with it. More research will need to be done. This will be on hold and will be explored further in the future. **This item is open.**

Purchase of Cemetery Plots by Former Londonderry Residents: Plots are sold to current Londonderry residents only. We have gotten many inquiries about purchasing plots by former Londonderry Residents. The trustees would like to have some time to research legacy purchases. They will present information at the cemetery trustee meeting on April 23, 2026, and decide if the plot purchase criteria will change and the Rules & Regulations will need to be amended. **This item is open.**

Cemetery Expansion: The area is already prepped for expansion. We will likely revisit beginning expansion in the Spring of 2026. **This item is open.**

Winter Closing Letter to Funeral Homes: Letters will be sent out to several funeral homes in the area on November 1, 2025. This letter explains that all public cemeteries in Londonderry will be closed for the winter starting on Monday, December 1, 2025. **This item is closed.**

Cara motioned to adjourn the meeting. Laura seconded the motion. All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33pm.

The next meeting will take place on **Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 6pm** in the Sunnycrest Conference Room in the Town Hall.

Minutes Recorded By: Denise Manella

Date Submitted: 10/23/25