Cemetery Meeting Minutes

Cemetery Trustees & DPW Staff

October 20, 2026

The meeting was called to order in the Merrill Conference Room in the Town Hall at 6:02pm.

In attendance:

Cemetery Trustees –Cara Dunn (2029) & Laura El Azem (2028)

Town Staff - Dave Wholley, Denise Manella & Ricky Robichaud

Residents – Ann Chiampa

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. The Cemetery Trustees are in favor of accepting the land donation. Dave has not heard from the developer. **This item is closed.**

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. This item was not discussed but remains open. **This item is open.**

Columbarium: 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 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 compiled information from other towns.

They require a will, probate records and burial/death records showing familial ties. The trustees need to decide the criteria and how to put the language into the Cemetery Rules & Regulations. This item was not discussed but remains open. **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 need to decide the criteria and how to put the language into the Cemetery Rules & Regulations. Also, the Cemetery Trustees need to check to see if the Cemetery Sexton has the final say on former resident plot purchases. Cara will bring proposed language to the next meeting. **This item is open.**

Green Burials: Green burials are an environmentally friendly alternative to traditional burials 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. We have had no requests for Green Burials in Londonderry. Hybrid Burials were discussed at this meeting. This is a type of Green Burial. It is an eco-friendly practice that takes place in a traditional, conventional cemetery. A section of the cemetery would be designated for this type of burial. The Cemetery Trustees need to discuss whether they want to have this type of burial available in the future. They will bring proposed language to the next meeting.

This item is open.

Winter Snow Removal: We have never done snow removal at any cemetery in Londonderry in the winter. We don't do year-round burials. Winter maintenance would be an expensive proposition. It would require a warrant article and vote to add staff & equipment. At this time, it is not possible to remove snow from the cemeteries.

This item is closed.

Cemetery Expansion: Stantec has already done a design for the next cemetery expansion. We are looking at February or March to put the project out to bid. This expansion will be a continuation to square off the existing cemetery. Drainage is already completed. This should give us at least 5-10 years until we must begin the final cemetery expansion. Plans may include a dedicated parking area. **This item is open.**

Enforcing Rules at Cemeteries: The Cemetery Trustees would like the Cemetery Sexton to address the issue of people breaking the rules at the cemeteries. The rules need to be enforced. Dave will speak to Bo Butler about this matter. This item was not discussed but remains open. **This item is open.**

Cemetery Fee Structure: The Town Council needs to adopt the fee structure for the cemetery. Even though the Cemetery Trustees have approved it in the past, it still needs to go through the Town Council. The Town Manager has alerted the Town Council that this needs to be done soon. This item was not discussed but remains open. This was presented to the Town Council and it was approved. **This item is closed.**

Structure of Cemetery Trustees: The Cemetery Trustees elected Cara Dunn to the position of chair.

This item is closed.

New Business

Recommendation of Cemetery Trustee Alternates: The Cemetery Trustees voted to recommend Ann Chiampa as a Cemetery Trustee Alternate to the Town Council.

Cara motioned to recommend Ann Chiampa. Laura seconded the motion. All in favor.

This item is open.

36 Gilcreast Road/Procopio: 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. Some formalized agreements have been made and will go in front of the Town Council on November 2nd. The agreement will then go back to the Planning Board. Construction will be starting soon. The cemetery property will have a large earthen berm that will look natural and will block most of the construction. **This item is open.**

Interments, Plot Sales & Available Plots:

- There have been 28 burials since the cemeteries opened in April. This includes 9 full casket burials and 19 urn burials.
- This year, we have sold 2 double plots & 8 single plots.

- There are currently 39 double plots & 8 single plots available.

This item is closed.

Ann Chiampa Concerns:

- There is a stone at Glenwood Cemetery that is leaning against another stone. Ann showed Ricky where the stone is located. Ricky will pick up the stone and Ann will investigate where it belongs.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54pm.

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday, January 19, 2027, at 6pm** in the **Merrill Conference Room** (upstairs) in the Town Hall.

Minutes Recorded By: Denise Manella

Date Submitted: 10/23/26