Sextons Committee

MINUTES

July 14, 2026

The Sexton's Committee held a regular meeting on July 14th, 2026, at 3:00 pm, at 180 Market Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room 301, and by Zoom https://zoom.us/j/97442869500.

Members present: John Simson, Peter Taylor, Chuck Rainville, Jennifer McClory, Elise Guyette, Andrew Farrington, and Richard Thorngren

Also present: City Councilor Andrew Chalnick

1. First item: Meeting called to order at 3:03 pm.

2. Second item: No additions to the agenda.

3. No comments from the public.

4. June 9th, 2026, minutes approved unanimously.

5. Chair's comments: Chuck shared that the contract with Church Hill Landscapes was completed this morning with a target date to start work late August to mid-September. The water tanks have been delivered to Eldredge Cemetery and await placement on their locations until pallets are acquired to elevate them. The Committee members will keep an eye out for pallets with unpainted wood.

6. Chuck provided an update to the document developed before the most recent members joined the committee with the high, mid, and low priority plans for Eldredge Cemetery beautification for discussion around the balance of donation funds and what to use them for. The quote for Church Hill to plant the designed improvements around the Veterans' Memorial would be $18K without the boulders. That is for an area of 1170ft^2. The designed layout for the cremains garden is more than 3,500ft2 and removes Public Works access to that corner. Planting the hedge along the north Fence is quoted at $9K. After discussion the committee unanimously approved a motion to appropriate the amount quoted by Church Hill

Landscaping to install the hedge. The remaining funds will be held in reserve until the Phase one project is complete. Other items to source or purchase are a historic information sign for Eldredge Cemetery and better flag holders for the veterans in both cemeteries. John will reach out to veterans' organizations to see if there are groups interested in fundraising for the flag stands.

7. There is no existing pool of people painting utility boxes in the City. Painting of the water tanks may therefore be good for a school art project or if the City Art Committee has any suggestions of painters or interested groups to recommend. John will follow up with Amanda Holland, Chair of the Arts Committee for possible member interest.

8. A discussion about the garden for cremated remains agreed that the layout of plots should be more linear. We will also reconsider the size and location of the cremains garden in future.

9. City Councilor Andrew Chalnick provided an update on the open position for Cemetery Administrator. The position is in the City Manager's queue for action but has not been taken up yet. He is also following up on the approval of the spelling change on Eldredge with an e before signage is posted with the new spelling.

10. In other business, Peter suggested committee members see the lilacs recently planted in the Shelburne Rd cemetery. Chuck will reach out to the VT Secretary of State's office about the acreage requirement for Columbaria. There was also some discussion about cancelling the August meeting if no agenda items are expected.

11. Following the 10th item, Any Other Business. The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 pm.