



Sextons Committee

DRAFT MINUTES

September 8, 2026

The Sexton's Committee held a regular meeting on September 8, 2026 at 3:00 pm, at 180 Market Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room 301, and by Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/97442869500>.

Members present: Chuck Rainville, Jennifer McClory, Peter Taylor, Richard Thorngren, Andrew Farrington, James Kennedy

Also present: City Council Liaison Andrew Chalnack

1. First item: Meeting called to order at 3:05 pm.
2. Second item: No changes to the agenda
3. No comments from the public.
4. July 14, 2026 minutes approved unanimously.
5. Review of the FY 2027 workplan resulted in agreement on items to wait for the cemetery administrator including items 3, 5, 6 and 7 in the Lifting of Plot Sales section and items 7, 8, 13, 14, and 15 in the General section. A motion to await the cemetery administrator before commencing work on these passed unanimously. Regarding General section Item 6, Chuck will provide a photo of a Colchester cemetery sign for consideration. A similar style with the cemetery rules posted below was suggested. For the FY 2027 work plan Andrew Chalnack suggested the committee identify property for the City's open space planning that would improve access to the Shelburne Rd cemetery.
6. The committee would like to include before and after photos of the restoration work done at Eldredge in the FY 2026 Annual Report. Before pictures of Eldredge should be taken now before the plantings go in. Any comments on the draft Annual Report are due to Chuck by Tuesday September 15th.

7. An updated accounting of the beautification donation spending was provided and reviewed with no additional comments.
8. After discussion of the water tanks, it was decided that painting the tanks can wait until Spring and the committee will work over the winter to identify a group or groups interested in painting the tanks.
9. The next step to seek a municipal exception in the statutes for Columbaria at Eldredge is to develop a draft summary of the issue and desired outcome for review by the committee for eventual delivery and review with State Senator Thomas Chittenden to determine what the next steps are.
10. Details are expected from Churchill Landscaping on the watering needs of the new planting. Anticipated usage is 900 gallons per week. Three people can sign up per week. Orange flags will indicate the plants for the center tank water. Watering will begin at the end of next week or the beginning of the week after as planting is completed. The shrubs will have mounded earth and the trees will have slow release donuts to help with water retention and consistency.
11. Peter presented the three most costly items that would improve the city cemeteries. They are water service at Eldredge Cemetery, new fencing at Shelburne Road cemetery, and purchase of columbarium for Eldredge cemetery. Water service to Eldredge was previously determined to cost around \$25K. Estimates will be needed for fencing and columbaria before bringing the request to Council. Fencing would be iron to match Eldredge at the front of the Cemetery and sides to the swale, with chain link from the swale back. A survey is recommended before fencing is replaced.
12. The City Arborist is planning a volunteer tree planting day at Eldredge cemetery, tentatively on Saturday October 24th. He will do advertising for the event via the City's recreation emails and socials.
13. Jen and Peter volunteered to add bulbs around the flag pole at Eldredge cemetery.
14. In other business, Peter read a note from Nancy Simpson about John. The committee is sending John a card and our best wishes.

Following Other Business. The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 pm.