



Special Meeting

Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 3:30 p.m.

Town Manager's Conference Room, 43 Bombardier Road, Milton, VT 05468

In Person

Members Present: Jim Ballard; Allen Beaupre; John Mayville; Rod Moore; Peter Staniels

Members Absent: none

Staff Present: Kristin Beers

Others Present: none

I. Call to Order

Peter Staniels called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. Public Forum

None.

III. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes from November 12, 2025

Motion made by John Mayville to approve the November 12th meeting minutes, with a second by Rod Moore. Motion approved unanimously.

IV. Cemetery Rules and Regulations – Selectboard Meeting Follow-up

Peter presented the updated Rules and Regulations to the Selectboard on Monday, November 17th. Selectboard members had a few questions and seemed content to know the document had been sent to the town attorney for legal review. The meeting went well and the Rules and Regulations were approved.

Kristin handed out printed copies of the updated Rules and Regulations to the committee members.

V. Update on Tree Work

Much of what Peter does as Cemetery Superintendent is to assess the cemeteries and the trees within. He reached out to a few different tree removal companies this winter and currently has proposed bids for the removal of seven trees in Section One of the Village Cemetery. There are other trees at the back of that section that will need to be taken down in a few years. There is one tree on the corner of Section Four and one dead clump in the West Milton Cemetery that will also be removed. He also has bids pending for seven tree removals in the Miltonboro Cemetery. Peter is working with arborists to develop a multi-year plan for tree trimming and/or removals within the Village Cemetery.

Peter asked Chris from A Cut Above Landscaping, who fixed the Miltonboro stone wall in 2025, to provide a price quote for the remaining, half dozen, damaged areas of that same wall. Peter has

spoken to the neighbor, Peter Becker, and he is willing to help trim and clean up the growth up against the cemetery wall along the southern border. The Founders Cemetery, which is located on the Rowley farm, is trimmed by A Cut Above Landscaping and Peter is interested in finding a helper to straighten stones while Chris is trimming one day. This is not a good location for a full cemetery work day, due to its location on private property and the limited parking.

Peter pointed out the need for more help, more volunteers, and participation from the Friends of the Milton Cemeteries. Neighbors living near cemeteries have often offered to help. It was agreed that this committee needs to maintain a list of volunteers.

VI. Cemetery Improvement Discussion

Peter admits that there are lots of possible projects that could improve Milton's cemeteries. As an example, the fence around the Checkerberry Cemetery needs repair. He asked committee members to visit the cemeteries and help make a list. One suggestion was to ask Bill Kaigle to make signs to identify the small, less-visited cemeteries, like the Austin Cemetery. There was a brief discussion about the challenges of maintaining those small cemeteries located on private property.

VII. Vermont 250th Anniversary Update – Veteran Grave Markers, Brochure and Quilt

Jim Ballard shared the brochure that Karen Brigham created for the 250th Anniversary cemetery tour. It features about 30 veterans and lists each Milton cemetery where they are buried. He also passed around a picture of the quilt that Susan Mullen made.

Jim has purchased colorful fabric to mark the headstones, which will make these veteran gravesites easy to find when visitors follow along the tour of honored veterans.

While at a hockey game in Plattsburgh, Rod Moore noticed a simple trail head post and thought it could be another way to mark the 250th revolutionary war soldier's graves.

VIII. VOCA 2026 Work Day

Peter has not yet contacted Tom Giffin regarding a VOCA workday in Milton. There was discussion if VOCA can realistically be expected to visit Milton every year. There are many other towns and cemeteries that VOCA may want to help. The committee decided to schedule the 2026 Cemetery Work Day on Saturday, June 6, from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm in the Village Cemetery. Peter will invite VOCA if they are available. It was pointed out that there are broken stones in the West Milton Cemetery, and it was agreed that we will schedule a workday at that cemetery when we are certain VOCA can attend. It would be great to have a volunteer willing to learn repair techniques the next time VOCA visits.

IX. 2025 Cemetery Statistics

Kristin Beers read the following statistics to the committee:

Last year, in 2025, we had 11 burials (9 Village, 1 Miltonboro, 1 West Milton), 11 lot sales (10 Village, 1 Miltonboro) and 9 decedents in the receiving vault, for a total revenue of \$14,900.00.

To compare, in 2024, we had 16 burials (14 Village, 1 Miltonboro, 1 West Milton), 2 lot sales (both Village) and 7 decedents in the receiving vault, for a total revenue of \$6,815.00.

There was a brief discussion about the importance of the Cemetery Fund, and taking care not to spend it all at once since our revenue is not enough alone to support basic perpetual care.

X. Other business as needed

Remembering that our meetings were changed to quarterly, it was suggested that we meet again in April so that we have enough time to plan for the 2026 work day.

Motion made by John Mayville to have the next meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, with a second by Jim Ballard. Motion approved unanimously.

XI. Adjournment

Motion made by John Mayville to adjourn the meeting at 4:42 p.m., with a second by Al Beaupre. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned by Peter Staniels.

All documents pertaining to this meeting may be viewed using the following link:

https://miltonvt.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/TownOfMiltonFilesFolders/IgCcUNovYocHSbJ1VCeZDylZAcJsQrBu-wLf8u_ieDg908w?e=2bd3mK

Minutes recorded and submitted by Kristin Beers, Town Clerk.

APPROVED
MINUTES:

Chair

Date

ATTEST:

Milton Town Clerk

Filed this day with the Milton
Town Clerk's Office.