



Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 3:30 p.m.

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

In Person

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

Members Absent: none

Staff Present: Kristin Beers

Others Present: Betsy Paret, Michelle Kay

I. Call to Order

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

II. Public Forum

Michelle Kay lives across the street from the Miltonboro cemetery and shared her disgust with how the cemetery now looks like a pet cemetery after a number of trees were taken down. It was shocking and she, as a neighbor, would have liked to have been notified in advance. She wanted to know what happened to the wood from the trees. Milton residents could have used that wood to heat their homes. She also asked if the board has a plan for planting shrubs or small trees in that cemetery going forward.

Various committee members responded and explained that residents cannot cut down the trees themselves for heating wood. Vendors hired to do such work are required to provide Certificates of Insurance when working in our cemeteries. The bid includes the wood removal, which helps keep the cost down. It was also explained that planting trees is not allowed in the Cemetery Rules and Regulations. Old trees cause damage when they, or their limbs, fall into the cemeteries. Trees and their roots slowly push over headstones, monuments and stone walls as they grow. And trees provide shade which creates an environment where moss thrives, growing on headstones and monuments.

Michelle shared her email address, interested to remain in touch with this committee and the Friends of the Milton Cemeteries.

III. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes from April 8, 2026

Motion made by Rod Moore to approve the April 8th meeting minutes, with a second by Al Beaupre. Motion approved unanimously.

IV. Vermont 250th Anniversary - Update

Jim Ballard passed around the final version of the brochures that he, Karen Brigham and Milton's Recreation Department created to honor Revolutionary War veterans. The brochure is organized by each cemetery where their graves can be found. The committee enjoyed discussing some of the veterans listed in the brochure and their history. The brochures will be available at the town's Memorial Day celebration, the Historical Society, the Town Clerk's office and a few other locations.

Jim also showed everyone the completed pole markers that will designate the Revolutionary War veteran grave sites, corresponding with the brochure. Phyllis Mayville created ribbons out of the patriotic fabric and John Mayville helped fasten them to the top of each pole. The Revolutionary War veteran gravesites should be easy to find once the poles are placed. The committee discussed getting together one day next week (the week of May 17th) to put out the pole markers.

John Mayville announced that they recently finished putting out approximately 550 veteran flags in all the Milton cemeteries for Memorial Day. There was a brief discussion about the flag holders and how other towns don't always have enough flags to put out each year.

V. VOCA 2026 Work Day - Update

Since our last meeting, Peter Staniels and Brittany have updated this year's work day flyers and the list of volunteers. Peter has already been contacted by an interested volunteer who saw the new flyer in the Village Cemetery. Jay is coordinating supplies needed to repair broken stones. John Mayville suggested someone write a letter to the editor to get word out in the newspaper and Rod agreed to do so. Kristin will order the port-o-let. There was much discussion about lifting and resetting the heavy monuments. Peter looked up the Tombstone Jack online and it costs \$4,300. It would be great if VOCA could use a grant to purchase something, a jack or tripod, and bring it around to the various cemeteries that need it. It was also suggested that we add bug spray and tick repellent to the list of supplies for volunteers to bring to our work day on June 6th.

VI. Pete and Rod's Cemetery Tour

Rod Moore and Peter Staniels visited all of the Milton cemeteries a few Fridays ago to come up with a comprehensive cemetery maintenance plan. Rod shared his notes and photos and hopes that we can keep this running list of repairs updated going forward. Whenever we have volunteers available to assist, we can pick any of the items listed, from painting or repairing fences to cutting back overgrowth, and have them addressed.

VII. Other business as needed

Kristin asked if the next meeting would be on August 12th, back on the quarterly schedule.

John Mayville made a motion to meet again next month, on the second Wednesday of June (6/10/26) at 3:30 pm, with a second by Rod Moore. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Ballard and Rod Moore shared with the group an A-frame sign that the Recreation Department helped create, honoring Revolutionary War Veterans.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion made by John Mayville to adjourn the meeting at 4:42 p.m., with a second by Rod Moore. 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/lqDicGFwqFPMT6Y0IPwGLvVwAUirfaBCJGT0IcvaKorNKeQ?e=5vx7WT>

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.