(Unapproved) Minutes of the Cemetery Commission
Town of Fayston, Vermont
Wednesday, November 12th, 2025, 2:00 pm
At Robert Vasseur Town Hall and via Zoom

Attendees:
Cemetery Commission Members: Candace Porter, David Koepele, Karen Sauther (minutes taker)
No one from the public in attendance

1) **Call to Order**. Meeting called to order at 2:00pm.

2) **Agenda Modifications**. No modifications.

3) **Public Comments.** None.

4) **Election of Cemetery Commission Chair.** *Candace nominated David Koepele for the Chairperson position. Karen seconded. All approved.*

5) **Financial Reports.**
   a) Investment Accounts. David furnished printed copies of the most recent investment account statements for the two accounts held by the Fayston Cemetery Commission, dated Sep 27 - Oct 31. In summary, the total sum of dividends and interest earned this year to date for both accounts is $6328.79. David stated that by VT law, The Commission has the ability to spend only the dividends and interest earned, and not the the principal. Commission members were unsure whether the earnings would be subject to capital gains tax.
   b) Checking Account. Candace reported a checking account balance of $11,761.27, and pending payments of $2,000 for perpetual care, $600 for cornerstones payable to Vermont Monuments, and $250 for property maintenance payable to Doug Barnes.
   c) Long Term Financial Goals. Commission members discussed that while the Fayston Cemetery Commission is currently able to meet its financial obligations, increasing costs to the Commission for property care and investments in capital improvements could impact future solvency.
   d) 2026 Budget. Commission discussed that price adjustments should be considered to help remain solvent and that there may be a need to request aid from the Town if significant capital improvements become necessary. No budget decisions were made.

6) **2026 Price Schedule.**
   a) Full Burial. *Candace moved to raise the full burial fee from $900 to $1200, beginning January 1, 2026. Karen seconded the motion. All approved and motion passed.*
   b) Inurnment. No changes were proposed for inurnment fees.
   c) Green Burial. The Commission members tabled this topic, citing that further discussion and preparation for green burials is needed.
   d) Resident and non-resident lot prices. No changes were proposed for lot prices.

e) Perpetual Care. *Karen motioned to increase the perpetual care fee from $250 to $500 beginning January 1, 2026. Candace seconded. All approved and motion passed.*

7) Capital Improvements.

a) For 2026
   i) Tree removal North Fayston and South Fayston. This project is a priority.
      (1) David stated he will get an estimate together for tree removal.
   ii) Fence for Section A of South Fayston. No change or plans made to erect a fence at this time.

b) Long Term
   i) Grave cleaning and repair. Commission discussed getting volunteers to conduct grave cleaning, but that the limiting factor would be water availability.
      (1) David recommended requesting assistance from the Fayston road crew to bring a tanker truck to the site where cleaning is occuring. This request will be made at the Fayston Selectboard meeting on December 9th.
      (2) David stated he will count how many monuments need repairing and their locations.
   ii) Border plantings at South Fayston. Commission tabled this discussion, citing cost and resources.

8) Creation of a Cemetery Database. Commission discussed identifying whether the current NEMRC platform being used by the Town of Fayston for other purposes may also be used for cemetery data tracking. Candace stated it would be important for us to be able to have remote access to make regular updates. Karen stated she will obtain cost estimate and functionality information.

9) Green Burial Discussion. Discussion prompted several questions, including location of green burial sites, whether fencing may be needed for green burial section, who would have responsibility for the burial process and how, what additional costs may be associated with green burials, and what additional costs may be associated with perpetual care and groundskeeping. No motions or decisions were made on the topic, citing the need for follow up research. Candace mentioned that section A of the South Fayston Cemetery has been considered for green burials, but that a fence would need to be erected around the area for one to occur. That section is currently unmarked and informally used for parking by cemetery visitors.

10) Property Manager Compensation.

a) Karen motioned to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 1 V.S.A§313 for the purpose of discussing compensation for the Cemetery Property Manager. Candace seconded. All agreed and the motion passed.

b) Karen motioned to exit out of executive session, Candace seconded and motion passed.

c) Candace motioned to increase compensation to the Cemetery Property Manager from $10,000 to $11,000 in 2026. Karen seconded. All agreed and motion passed.

d) Candace stated we require a renewed Proof of Insurance from Cemetery Property Manager for 2026 and she will make that request.

11) Other Business. Commission summarized topics to bring up for discussion at the Fayston Select Board meeting scheduled for December 9th, including

a) tree removal
b) assistance with monument cleaning & repair, and
c) resolution for the ground spring that caused damage to the South Fayston Cemetery driveway last spring

12) Adjournment. *Candace motioned to adjourn the meeting. David seconded. All approved.* Meeting adjourned at 3:18pm.