Woodstock Cemetery Committee
Minutes

Friday, April 17th, 2026 at Firehouse #1

Attending: Teri Reynolds, Chair; Catherine Carberry, Bob Gordon, Debbie Hastie, Ken Keefe, Janine Mower, Tana O'Sullivan, Richard Heppner

Absent: Reggie Earls, Town Councilman

Guests: Al Van Leuvan - Head of Maintenance Department, Shea Cocks of Maintenance Dept, and Rebekah Brooks member of public

Meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM

Motion by Debbie 2nd by Catherine to accept the minutes of February 27th 2026. All in favor.

Chairperson's Report: Welcomes our guests. She asked Al to explain the procedure of a person's purchasing a plot and the procedure when there is a burial.

Al Van Leuvan says if someone calls for a plot they see Yvonne Rojas-Cowan, Secretary to Supervisor. He/she still goes through Michele Sehweret, Deputy Town Clerk for the deed. Yvonne then calls Al who then alerts Shea. He and Shea then figure out where the purchased plot is located. Shea says the mapping must be done on the ground and can no longer be done in an office. Many of the maps need to be redone. He and Al will help with that. Recently they had a problem trying to find where a particular plot was located. In the past, mapping where plots were sold was not done correctly resulting in plots not being located where anticipated. Shea is going to restring Section G. Al is going to remeasure Section G. Most of the problems are in the lower part of Section G. Ken offers to help create straight lines.

Ken says without real surveying "I don't know how you can know where a grave is located". Shea says they will measure out using the deeds sold so we can continue to sell plots while we work on the problem area. They will be working with Ken to measure and layout going forward. Shea and Al are going to show Michelle how to mark the map going forward.

There were a couple of mistakes before the last administration came in but nothing like what it turned into. Shea will match up the deeds with the map and with the grounds. Teri looks forward to sitting down with Al and Shea to work on this with them. Shea says the biggest problem was when deeds were mailed. Two deeds were sent to owners, but people didn't send the second deed back. In the last administration they began printing three

deeds which was helpful. With three deeds (one is retained by the Town) there is no need to rely on mailing a deed back to the Town. Ken confirms they are filed only in the Town offices, not the County. No way for someone to just look up official records.

Janine asks if there are still deeds missing, do we need to make an appeal to the public. Al and Shea think that is a good idea. Janine volunteers to be involved to make the effort again. Shea points out many people have done the deeds over the years. Janine has, for example, her grandmother's deed from 1967. She gave a copy to the Town for their records. Al gives an example of a family who knows they have deeds but can't find them and the Town doesn't have copies. Teri says the other day someone left a bag on her doorknob with three old deeds in it. Teri brought them to Yvonne. Shea gave all the old maps to Teri that he had rescued from a garbage can. Over the years there are subtle changes to the maps, never throw old maps out.

Shea is glad to hear that Joe is coming back, says Joe is a wonderful guy. Anything Joe needs Shea makes sure he gets. Shea says if the water is not available at the pump by the fence that he can get it from Shea's house. Al says the water will be turned on soon. Debbie points out Joe came in early last year and the water had not been turned on yet though they left the key there. They are not leaving the key there anymore.

Shea asks about the fence. Teri says she has been advised there is no money in the budget for the fence. Shea thought it was part of the grant. (grant money was used to replace fencing on south side of cemetery). Teri found out 25% of the grant was left, but she was told it was used to pay outstanding bills. The last estimate to repair the fence was $17K. Now that it's practically destroyed, we'll need to request new estimates. Al asks Teri to get a quote; the Maintenance Department has a cemetery budget line into which money will be allocated for the next fiscal year. The previous supervisor promised the town's people that there would be no taxpayer money paid for the cemetery. However, Al points out that the town is in fact responsible for the cemetery. Maintenance prepares its budget in October. Al can request the funds we need. The worst thing that can happen is he is denied funds. Janine agrees this is a good approach to keep it on the front burner. Bob says to get an estimate. Fencing can also be budgeted in sections if we can't do the whole fence in one year. It might be more feasible if broken up in sections. Three bids are required, but Teri has only been able to get two bids.

Al has the email for Dylan Eckerstein, Superior Fence and Rail of Hudson Valley. He had emailed the town wanting to be able to give quotes and provide services for the town. He could be the 3rd quote. Al happy to meet with them if he's available. Al is walking through the cemetery with Shea and Anula on Tuesday.

Chairperson's Report – Teri: Teri reports that Richard and the other two Geezers applied our new QR code sticker to cemetery map. We thank them for volunteering. Teri has QR codes to apply to the metal tags. Bob & a volunteer will be putting them on a warm day. The QR code takes you to the Town website's cemetery page where you can make a donation. The old code is linked to the history of the town. The new code only links to information. When Catherine tested them before they had not changed from the old code. It goes to donations, fees, maps, and how to call the Town. Richard and Janine are working on the history of the people buried there. Richard is talking to Noah Eckstein of the Overlook Press about doing bios and history.

OLD BUSINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. **Gravestone Cleaning – Catherine :** She has created "The Woodstock Cemetery Committee Volunteer Team" form. Capt. Hotdog, Michele and Monique are returning but Catherine needs some new volunteers. The Volunteer Form will be posted on the Town's FB page with a link they can click if they're interested. She will also put it on our Instagram page. Catherine will audit her supplies to make sure we have enough water sprayers and other items used in the cleaning process. We will need more D2 cleaner.

B. **Fundraising – Debbie:** As of yesterday, we have received $3,854 from 48 donations. We sent out 173 letters. Hopefully we'll get some more. Donations in response to our letters usually come in April and May and then they slack off. Debbie received a report from Dawn who reported our balance as $10,791 but she has not recorded all donations received yet. Dawn deducted $125 for the postage to send the letters out, (it's 74 cents for bulk postage). Debbie also sends thank you notes for the donations, so the postage covers that as well. Debbie says there were quite a few notes included in the donations about what a great job we are doing. Catherine asks to take photos of them to use. Debbie reads a beautiful remark to the committee.

C. **Heritage Trees – Bob:** Bob spoke with Vern but has not received the most recent bid. Vern will be giving Bob an estimate for the remainder of the trees which we need so we can vote on it. Hopefully we'll have it for next month's meeting. Janine was questioned by a member of the public about the nails used in the tree for the plaques and Janine let her know the nails and the mounting were done by, and with the guidance of, a professional arborist. Bob asks about an article in the Daily Freeman about the ASPCA where they had run out of food. They are 90% funded by

donation. It made it to the front page because the response was so overwhelming. Bob contacted Gina Carboneri of the Ulster ASPCA asking how they fundraise and she said they did it via social media. They use FB for outreach. Timing is critical, that posting on Saturday nights is best. Their live feed gets 45K views. They try to respond to everyone who gives them support. The article in the DF was picked up by CBS Sunday Morning; the producer is Rand Morrison. He has a segment where he focuses on arts and artsy things. Bob is tracking him down to see if our Cemetery projects would pique any interest. Gina said that coverage is what generated the overwhelming response. Bob is meeting with her again soon.

D. **Grant Research – Tana:** Teri spoke with Anula about calling the state to apply for more grants. Anula approved. Tana sent out five grant letters that were approved and included a beautiful double sided photo essay Catherine had put together on the Heritage Trees, the Preservation work, the map and more. One of the letters returned had been sent to the Villchur Foundation in Woodstock which is apparently not using that PO box anymore. Tana plans to add to the letter information about our fencing needs and then continue to send out more letters. These are appeals to small local and NYS foundations, these are not grant applications to large organizations. The one such organization we did apply to, the Preservation League of New York, did deny our application but invited us to apply again this year. The State grants are much more complicated and a less friendly process so we'll approach them after these preliminary efforts.

E. **Publicity – Janine:** Catherine and Janine met. Their first initiative was putting fall photos together. The idea is to get people to sponsor a tree. Once we get this rolling, we will develop different posts about why we're doing the Heritage Trees. The interesting thing is that it ties in with the idea that the Historical Society is going to be discussing with Noah (Editor, Overlook Press) talking about revolutionary soldiers in the cemetery. Over a dozen served in that war. Janine is working with the historical society in identifying their histories. They have an exhibit they are working on for this summer about Woodstock and the Revolutionary war.

Catherine asks about funding to create postcards or "sponsor a tree card". She'd like to make a door-to-door effort in the town. She will go to Print Express and get a quote for the next meeting for 100 and 200 double sided color cards. Catherine will reach out for help on content. Bob reminds us that we spoke of a $250 number per tree for the adoption. Richard points out these trees must be distinguished, they are

the Heritage Trees. These trees are over 150 years old and with care can easily go another 150 years. That cultivar can easily live for 400 years.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Letter to the Colony – Teri:** Debbie and Teri met with Anula. Teri sent a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Neil Howard on March 25th. She reads the letter aloud. Once again, we have not received a response.

2. **Joe Ferrannini –** Gravestone conservation services for 5 days to straighten, repair and/or reset headstones: $4750.00
   Motion to accept Joe's bid by Tana, 2nd Janine. All in favor.

3. **New Cemetery Section – Teri:** As you look at section D which runs along the northside of the fencing, to your left is a piece of vacant area that is going to become a new section of the cemetery. Previous supervisor was going to call it D-West, but it may end up with a different name. It was previously measured out because two individuals have purchased plots there, but it needs to be measured out correctly. Ken again offered his help.

   If it is named D-West, Teri suggests that it has its own set of rules and regulations and does not follow R&Rs of Section D. In fact, the present Cemetery Rules and Regulations need revision. Janine suggests a subcommittee for rules and regs.

4. **Our own Facebook page -** Catherine points out we don't have our own FB page and is going to investigate if we can post more on the Town FB page. The prior administration did not permit us to have our own page. Our guest, Rebekah, points out that the WEC and the Housing Committee each have their own FB pages so it's clearly not a prohibition

Motion to close by Janine, 2nd Debbie, all in favor.

The next WCC meeting will be Thursday May 16th, 2026, at 9:00am, location to be confirmed for Fire Co #1.