Woodstock Cemetery Committee
Minutes

Thursday, July 23rd, 2026 at Fire Company #1

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

Absent: Reggie Earls, Town Councilman

Excused: Catherine Carberry

Guests: **Michael Veitch, Woodstock Tree Committee**
Jim Hanson

Meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM

Motion by Bob 2nd by Debbie to accept the minutes of June 25, 2026, 2nd Ken. All in favor.

Chairperson's Report: Welcomes our guests.

OLD BUSINESS

A. New Sections(s) of Cemetery – Ken Keefe: Has not been out to the cemetery since last meeting. He did a revision to the new section, now called Section I. Started to resketch but does not have a formal sketch yet to submit. Ken will give a formal plan to Anula and copy to Teri.

B. Historical Grant – Janine: Has the video, which is going to be in production. The Historical Society approved the launch of the video on their channel when it's completed. Meeting next week with Anula and Teri to update and affirm permission to put on website and channel. Teri will be talking about footstones. Janine did not like the Timely Signs option. Janine needs the documentation for the D2 cost and the number of volunteers that worked over the summer cleaning headstones. And then we can talk about funding for Ferrannini's work and the footstones.

C. Revolutionary War Vets Markers - Debbie & Teri: Regarding granite marker footstones for William Longyear and John Yerry, who do not have a footstone, Teri had spoken to a monument firm in Saugerties who quoted us $500 each for the cost of the granite footstone. Teri learned of Taylor Monuments Co., Inc in Hannacroix, NY and spoke with Mrs. Taylor who stated a cost of $500.00 for two foot engraved granite markers including installation. Yesterday Debbie and Teri visited and discussed same with Mr. and Mrs. Taylor

who provided them with drawings of the footstones. The drawing is passed around the Committee. Teri spoke with Al and Shea and they are in support of the footstones. Shea suggested that the American Legion might want to get involved. Bob Gordan states that footstone installation is different than a full headstone monument because of the weight. Footstones may not require a concrete base. It's a simpler process.

Sub-Committee Reports

A. Fundraising – Debbie: Received a copy of the report yesterday, exactly the same as last month. Has not received new donations.

B. Headstone Cleaning – Catherine: Out of town on vacation. The goal is 100 tombstones this summer. They have done a good job so far.

C. Heritage Trees – Bob: Bob to contact Vern Rist to ask what is the next work that he sees in his professional opinion that needs to be done. Bob expects selective pruning, some cabling.

NEW BUSINESS

A. **Letter from Michael Veitch re grant application:** Michael sent Teri a sample letter supporting the grant. He has already received a letter of support from the Highway Department. Michael says we have an excellent opportunity this year, probably for the first time ever, with a very competent urban forester at the DEC who has stepped in to help us. Michael has never felt so good about a grant application before. It's a totally funded grant for the town of Woodstock, there's no match. It will provide an inventory of trees, parks, trails, Andy Lee Field, and the Village Green. He has asked for a letter of support from Dutch Reform Church, and other pocket parks. It's basically the tree edge that would be inventoried, trees along the sides of the road and those in the cemetery would be included. Not included in the grant is bike paths. This is a straight inventory of street trees including Routes 212 and 375. The inventory would include trees within ten feet on both sides of the road. If the town wants a full 20 feet to include the bike path the town could work something out.

   It would also include a tree management plan. We have a retired urban planner with a lot of grant writing experience on our committee. Dion Ogust is collecting the narrative, we are collecting GEIS maps for everything and getting wonderful assistance from the DEC for our grant.

   Regarding the management plan, the town would have to agree to a 10-year management plan. Woodstock is one of the last communities around to have something like this. We are far behind the communities around us in terms of a

management plan for the street trees and an inventory. One, it tells you what you have, two, it tells you which trees need maintenance, which might need to come down, which are invasive species. The highway dept responded immediately that it's an excellent tool for them

For the cemetery it would be the same situation, you have older trees, trees that need maintenance, some may need replacement, the inventory and maintenance plan would provide for what needs to be done. The town would have to pay for the actual maintenance. There are grants that we could apply for down the road with regard to new plantings and maintenance. The state is committed to planting 25 million trees. Our street trees are in a lot of trouble. The urban forester was taken through the cemetery while she was here so she is aware of the cemetery's needs.

Michael Veitch would like a letter of support from us, by August 5th or sooner. They requested one from the Historical Society letter as well. Inventory will include government area, the open areas, the whole Comeau property.

Richard asks if we need town approval to write a letter. Michael is working with the town and with Anula. Laura Ricci is working with the Tree Committee to get this grant, so it seems reasonable to say the Town is in approval of this grant.

What we would get back is information, we would not have to do any of the work to get that information. The state is putting up $10 million; it is a competitive grant. Being within the Catskill Preserve Park may give us an advantage in getting this grant because we are one of the last members of the Park to do this inventory. This is a four-year project. It also gives the town the ability to budget ahead, knowing what needs to be done. The Highway Department has a budget for tree work already. They like this because they have not done an inventory themselves, they are asking for specific streets to be done. May go down Chestnut Hill, Sickler Road, it's basically the roads in the hamlet, the gateway to the village. Not going to go out to Willow, Lake Hill.

Richard asks about the dying pines. Michael says the white pines are under a lot of stress and being wiped out by three different issues including climate change, the southern pine beetle, and red rot. There is an estate over in Zena on Witchtree Road. Zena is ground zero for red rot. They had to cut 74 dead pine trees on a 2 ½ acre parcel, cost $25K. One day they were green, two weeks later they were brown. Michael predicts they will all die. Michael agrees there is danger involved with the white pines and can only recommend you look at the situation in terms of safety. They are weed trees many of them. The inventory can tell you more about the pines, how many, where, what to do about them. The Comeau has a tremendous amount of white pine that are

reaching maturity. They do not last forever. Climate change with all the CO2 is forcing trees to grow faster.

Bob started an inventory a year ago. We have an arborist and have started this process. Andy Lee Field is right next door and has never been done. Janine points out this will help our efforts in the future in getting grants to plant in the future that will be consistent with the DEC maintenance plan.

Motion by Janine, 2nd by Debbie: To authorize that a letter be written to the Town of Woodstock expressing our approval of the Tree Committee's process of applying for this grant. Motion passes unanimously.

Teri points out we don't have a plan going forward for treating the trees. We could benefit from a plan going forward. Bob will contact Vern re same.

B. **Volunteer Picnic:** Teri received notice for volunteer picnic. She asked as to who plans to attend, so she may notify committee. Ken and Teri will be attending. This year the Cemetery Committee is being included on the list.

C. **Historic Designation of Artist's Cemetery:** Richard met with Sam Magnarelli regarding an historic designation for the Artist's Cemetery. They approved the Artist's Cemetery because of its historic figures such as Hervey White and others from Byrdcliffe. Now the rules have loosened up and Richard asks if he should speak to the State about the Town Cemetery. If recognized by the state as a historic site, we would get a state marker that we would have to pay for. It was $1500 for the marker at the George Bellows house. The application was 47 pages long. The Pomeroy Foundation provides them for free but it's a lot of paperwork and the markers do not look the same, they are brown and yellow. There's a Pomeroy marker on the Church on the Mount. Years ago they would not have considered the Woodstock Cemetery. The designation does help with grants. Catherine McKenna did the maps for the Artist's Cemetery and they are absolutely stunning. Everyone there and at Evergreen Cemetery is marked. Colored maps, laminated, they used drones to create the maps. Richard is going to look into the option and speak with the State about it. Janine remarks how much information is on Find a Grave. It would take a team of 4 or 5 people to work on an application.

Motion to close by Tana, 2nd by Ken, all in favor.

The next WCC meeting will be August 20th at 9am, at Fire Co #1.