

Hill West Cemetery Association
Montgomery, Vermont

Minutes of the 2026 Annual Meeting

Held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, 11 June 2026
Conference Room, Montgomery Public Service Building

Formal actions of the meeting are noted in italics.

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by President Jeffrey Jewett.

Persons Present: Seven persons attended: Officers: President Jeffrey Jewett, Vice President Patrick Calecas, Clerk Titus Presler, Treasurer Nancy Lumbra. Members: Ruth Godrey, Lewis Rose and Claudia Rose.

Clerk's Report:

- Clerk Titus Presler presented and reviewed the minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting, held on August 26. *The minutes were accepted as presented.*
- The Membership List was circulated for corrections and updating. After updating, there were 42 living member households on the list.

President's Report: President Jeff Jewett reported that two lots had been sold over the past year and said that 30-40 plots remain available. He said the mowings had gone well. He confirmed that the current price for a lot is \$600, which includes the corner stones. He emphasized that plot holders must contact himself before contracting for headstones and cornerstones.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Nancy Lumbra reported as follows:

Balances as of 1/1/26:

Checking \$2,935.76 + Saving \$2,701.87 + CD \$19,101.02 = \$24,738.65

Income: CD Interest as of 5/30/26: \$160.82

Disbursements as of 6/30/25: 2 Mowings @ \$100 = \$200

Balances as of 5/31/2026:

Checking \$2,581.71 + Savings \$2,702.32 + CD \$19,515.44 = \$24,799.47

The maturity date for the Certificate of Deposit is 11/07/2026.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

It was agreed that the Certificate of Deposit at Community National Bank would be rolled over when it matures in November. Patrick advised checking around among banks for the most favorable rates, perhaps for 7-month CDs.

Elections:

The 2017 Bylaws state that the four officers will serve staggered two-year terms, the President & Clerk on one schedule, the Vice President & Treasurer on the other.

Nominations for vice president and treasurer were moved and seconded.

Nominations for the trusteeships were moved and seconded.

The following were elected by unanimous votes:

Vice President – for 2 years – Patrick Calecas

Treasurer – for 2 years – Nancy Lumbra

Trustees – each for 1 year – Patrick Calecas, Ruth Godfrey, Michael Jewett, Earl Lumbra, Nancy Lumbra, Titus Presler, Claudia Rose.

Other Business

- Nancy noted that she had followed up on Henry Rowse, who had died and had been buried in Richford, and said she had not been able to find information about Sally McCallister, for whom address and telephone number were missing.

- Nancy reiterated that payment of dues had declined with circulation of the meeting notice via email. Titus explained that meeting notices were sent by email to those with email addresses and by USPS for those for whom email addresses were not available. It was suggested that all members receive paper notices.

- Cemetery history was reviewed: The cemetery had fallen into disrepair under town management, until Jeff's grandfather and other relatives restored it in 1962 and established the association for its oversight. Some years ago there was an effort to have the town manage the cemetery; the association resisted this, and the matter has not been pursued. The cemetery is owned by the town and managed on its behalf by the association.

- One member had expressed concern about a pile of soil atop a grave adjacent to the member's plot. It was explained that the excess soil had been left to level the ground after the sinking from a "green burial."

- Gravestones are installed by the memorial vendor, typically Plouffe Monument or Champlain Monuments, but graves are to be dug only by Jeff Lawyer, who carries appropriate insurance.

- The equipment shed is no longer used because the association hires out the mowing and maintenance. The shed has fallen into disrepair.

It was decided to dismantle and discard the shed.

Patrick volunteered to contact the town for assistance. Alternatively, he would dismantle it himself with the help of a friend with heavy equipment.

- One of the gates in the fence was damaged, probably by a snowplow in winter. The town is responsible for fence maintenance and had been in touch to implement repair.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Dues were received by the Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,



Titus L. Presler, Clerk