Draft Minutes of the Riverside Cemetery Commission Reorganization
Tuesday November 10, 2026
6:30 PM Brookline Town Hall

1. Marjorie Ray, Brookline Town Clerk called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM
   Present were - Howard Osgood, Mike Winot, Doug Wellman and Dot Maggio
   No members of the public attended

2. The Town Clerk opened nominations for Chair of the Riverside Cemetery Commission.
   Dot Maggio nominated Doug Wellman. Howard Osgood seconded the motion. Doug accepted. No other nominations were made. Doug Wellman was unanimously elected as chair of the commission until the next Town Meeting and follow-up reorganization for 2027.

3. Dot Maggio nominated Mike Winot as Vice-chair. Howard Osgood seconded the motion. Mike accepted. No other nominations were made. Mike Winot was unanimously elected as the Vice chair of the commission until the next Town Meeting and follow-up reorganization for 2027.

4. Mike Winot nominated Dot Maggio as recording clerk. Howard Osgood seconded the motion. Dot accepted. No other nominations were made. Dot Maggio was unanimously elected as the recording clerk of the commission until the next Town Meeting and follow-up reorganization in 2027.

5. Cemetery Fence Update:
   It was decided between Howard Osgood and Mike Winot, that they would work with Kerry Bourne to bring the fence over to Meadowbrook Farm on Hill Road. The fence will be stored for the winter with plans to install it in the spring. Due to hunting season starting this weekend, the moving of the fence will occur after deer hunting but before Dec 1. Dot offered to email the Bournes and let them know.

6. Property acquisition Update:
   A brief discussion about how to determine a proper value on the half acre of land next to the cemetery owned by Rebecca Whitney. Dot offered to follow up and make some calls.

7. Broken Headstone Report
   Alyssia Schmidt posted photos on the Brookline Facebook page showing a broken headstone and several sunken and shifted grave markers. She complained about the care given by the company that mows the cemetery. Many additional comments were made on facebook responding to her post. Dot Maggio reached out to Alyssa by phone and agreed that there is wear and tear on many headstones from mowing. Dot then called Tom Bloom and he agreed to meet at the cemetery as he also heard about the Facebook post and was upset that his company was disparaged online. It appeared that someone moved the broken piece and stacked it. Was it vandalism? Tom stated that his employee denies hitting the stone. Tom

mentioned that rain and erosion could make tall stones unstable and wind or road equipment vibrations can weaken the stone from its base. After discussing the incident it could not be determined for sure if this was a mowing incident, an erosion incident or a vandalism incident.

The discussion by the committee members was to consider how to repair this and other old grave stones that have broken/shifted. Doug will reach out to Charlie Marchant for his advice. Doug also suggested meeting up with Tom Bloom in the spring and walking the cemetery. It would be better to also use a push mower in the tight spots rather than the large zero turn mower.

We also agree that complaints should have been brought to the direct attention of any of the 5 cemetery commissioners as soon as it was noted instead of posting on Facebook.

7. New Business

With the retirement of Laurie Nau-Martocci from the commission there is one vacancy open. This vacancy will be placed on the 2027 Town Meeting Warning for filling. It was noted that Mike Winot's term is also expiring in 2027.

Doug told us of the request from the Selectboard for the Cemetery Commission to also take over the care of the "ancient cemeteries" in Brookline. Doug noted that it is clear that ancient cemeteries are under the governance of the selectboard directly by law. The commissioners agree that the responsibility lies with the Selectboard.

Currently $2,000.00 a year is budgeted to care for the 4 properties in town ($500 each) Dot suggested that this be placed into a dedicated fund much like paving funds are so that if $2000 is not spent in one year, the funds carry over and are added to. This would help cover other major cemetery needs like tree removal (Austine Cemetery) and stone repair.

8. Set agenda for next meeting

Carry over from Old Business at the next meeting.

A- Cemetery Fence storage location - Plans for installing in the spring

B- Property Acquisition Update

C- Cemetery repair ideas

D- Suggestion for another Cemetery Commissioner before town meeting

E- TBD

9. Time / Date for next meeting

January 12, 2027 6:30 PM Town Hall

10. Doug Wellman adjourned the meeting at 7:12 PM

Submitted by: Dot Maggio