



Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 9, 2026, 3:30 p.m.

Town Manager's Conference Room, 43 Bombardier Road, Milton, VT 05468

In Person

Members Present: Jim Ballard; Natalie Cashen; John Mayville; Rod Moore; Peter Staniels

Members Absent: none

Staff Present: none

Others Present: Sean Toplosky; Betsy Paret; Hannah Luman

I. Call to Order

Peter Staniels called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. Public Forum

Betsy Paret presented information on cemetery kiosks and visitor tracking methods, including ones with a map and the history of the cemetery, covered wooden structures, electronic database kiosks with grave navigation for visitors, and QR codes to an App on your phone. Hannah Luman discussed the Recreation Department's experience with trail kiosks, website donation landing pages, digital traffic and visitor counters for grant applications, and the possibility of nominating town cemeteries as historic places. The committee discussed funding ideas and challenges. Peter Staniels concluded the public forum to proceed with regular agenda items.

III. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes from August 12, 2026

Motion made by Rod Moore to approve the August 12th meeting minutes, with a second by Jim Ballard. Motion approved unanimously.

IV. Committee Reorganization

Peter Staniels announced his decision to step back as Chair due to health reasons while remaining an active committee member, field volunteer, and the Cemetery Superintendent.

Motion made by Peter Staniels to nominate Rod Moore as Chair, with a second by Jim Ballard. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made by Rod Moore to nominate Peter Staniels as Vice-Chair, with a second by Natalie Cashen. Motion approved unanimously.

The committee agreed that Kristin Beers will continue serving as Clerk. Peter proposed expanding the committee from five to seven members to build depth and volunteer capacity. Betsy Paret noted that increasing committee membership requires Selectboard approval and an administrative code/bylaw update.

V. MHS Day of Service

Peter Staniels reminded the committee of the upcoming Milton High School Student Service Day on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Village Cemetery. Students will work in Sections 4 and 5 cleaning headstones using plastic scrapers, stiff plastic bristle brushes, spray bottles, and D2 biological cleaner. Sean Toplosky, Betsy Paret, and other volunteers agreed to assist Peter and supervise students. The committee reviewed proper stone cleaning procedures, emphasizing that non-metal tools must be used and stones should be wet before applying D2 cleaner. There was a suggestion to hand out cards to those student volunteers with details for a future cemetery workday.

VI. Review Proposed Edits to Cemetery Rules and Regulations

The committee reviewed proposed wording updates to the Cemetery Rules and Regulations which were suggested by a local funeral director:

1. Page 1: Change the definition of cremated remains from "incineration in a crematory" to "being processed in a crematory or other disposition facility" to accommodate alternative cremation methods such as alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction.
2. Page 2: Update inurnment wording to "placement of cremated remains into an urn or niche".
3. Page 6: Amend receiving vault procedures to require an attempt to contact an associated funeral director and/or the decedent's family member prior to removal from the vault if suitable arrangements for final disposition are not made by June 1st.

Motion made by John Mayville to approve sending the proposed edits to the Selectboard, with a second by Natalie Cashen. Motion approved unanimously.

The committee also discussed the potential installation of a columbarium wall to conserve remaining burial space at the Village Cemetery.

VII. Plan Next Cemetery Workday

Following mowing complaints at West Milton Cemetery, the committee discussed maintenance oversight and agreed to assign committee members to regularly monitor specific cemeteries across the town's eleven locations. For future workdays, it was suggested to put an ad in the newspaper in addition to social media posts, to plan a rain date, and to form a work team, a committed group of volunteers who regularly meet to help with the cemeteries. The committee scheduled a community cleaning day for Saturday, October 10, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at West Milton Cemetery to perform stone cleaning and brush trimming.

VIII. Other business as needed

The committee discussed volunteer hold-harmless agreements for maintenance workers using equipment.

John Mayville requested an update on trees growing through the iron fence at the Village Cemetery. Peter shared a concern that by removing those trees it may expose the cemetery to the neighboring rental property, so tree removal remains pending staff/Selectboard review.

IX. Adjournment

Motion made by Jim Ballard to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 p.m., with a second by John Mayville. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned by Peter Staniels.

All documents pertaining to this meeting may be viewed using the following link:

https://miltonvt.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/TownOfMiltonFilesFolders/IgDCa-finnuRSaeP4LDvmdJIAercub0E7tnr_IsEuhdvJQA?e=50vomE

Minutes recorded and submitted by Kristin Beers, Town Clerk.

APPROVED
MINUTES:

Chair

Date

ATTEST:

Milton Town Clerk

Filed this day with the Milton
Town Clerk's Office.