

GRAND ISLE CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 9, 2025, 4:30 p.m., Grand Isle Town Office

Meeting was called to order by Valerie Hunter, Chair at 4:30 p.m.

Commissioners present: Brian Allen, Lucille Campbell, Sue Lawrence, Suzanne Sauvé. Val Hunter was present on Zoom.

Guests: none

Additions or deletions to agenda: Val added Charter Discussion to New Business.

Minutes: Sue moved to accept the November 11, 2025 minutes. Brian seconded. Passed with all in favor.

Administrative Report – Sue Lawrence

Financials: Sue reported that Melissa Boutin verified the negative \$21,820 listed under Investment/Building/Equipment/Land was for the continuation of the road on the west side of the cemetery. The funds were paid from the Money Market, not from the Town appropriation.

Fund balance from current fiscal year as of Dec. 9, 2025 is \$11,811.94. With several months of lawn care to be done in spring 2026, that amount may not be enough to meet costs.

CD: \$32,000 from the stock proceeds has been put in a 6-month CD with an interest rate of 2.43%.

Lawn Care and Maintenance: No bills.

Burials and Lot Sales: One full burial with cremains. No lot sales.

Old Business:

Brian turned in the request for driveway work in the old section of the Village Cemetery to Island Excavating. He has not heard when the job will be done.

New Business:

Val needed clarification on wording for Childs stone and location. Verified that just the six names and birth and death dates for each were to be on the stone and there is room in the Childs lot for one more gravestone.

Proposed Town Charter discussion: Public hearing on a proposed Town Charter for Grand Isle at 6 p.m., December 15 discussed. The provision to change from electing town officials to officials being appointed by the Selectboard is a major concern of all the current Cemetery

Commissioners. It takes away the ability of the voters to have a say in who is responsible for the cemeteries. The majority of the Commissioners had not heard of the proposal until this week. Concern was expressed that no Selectboard member had approached the Cemetery Commission to discuss changing Commissioners from elected to appointed, or to explain the Selectboard's reason for drafting the charter with that proposal included. Val questioned why the change needed to be made. She feels that there is nothing wrong with the way the cemetery is being run. The consensus of all the Commissioners is that it is about control of cemetery funds on the part of the Selectboard. Lucille questioned whether the Vermont Statutes would allow the change without a separate town vote to abolish the Cemetery Commission and its elected Commissioners and return control of the cemeteries to the Selectboard.

Sue and Brian suggested that we listen to the Selectboard's reasoning at the December 15 public hearing and present our opinion at the second hearing on January 19, 2026. We agreed to attend the December 15 hearing either in person or by Zoom, listen to the presentation, ask questions if no one from the public did, and use our January 13 meeting to compose our response for the January 19 public hearing.

Sue moved to adjourn. All seconded and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m. Next meeting January 13, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucille Campbell, Recording Secretary