



**LEBANON BOARD OF CEMETERY TRUSTEES
JANUARY 12, 2021 - 5:00 PM
REMOTE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
LEBANONNH.GOV/LIVE**

-
- 1. Call to Order**
 - 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. November 10, 2020
 - 3. Cemetery Sexton Report**
 - 4. Old Business**
 - A. Discussion of potential bicycle path through Sacred Heart/Valley Cemetery connecting Mascoma Street to the Mascoma River Greenway. (Sue Painter has asked for 15 minutes of our time).
 - B. Natural/Green Burials: Review Draft Outline of Proposed Amendments
 - 5. New Business**
 - 6. Future Agenda Items**
 - A. Infant Graves
 - 7. Adjournment**

Due to the current situation with the COVID-19 Pandemic, the City of Lebanon is offering its meetings via Microsoft Teams. Members of the public are encouraged to attend by going to LebanonNH.gov/Live where you will find instructions on how to enter the meeting. Members of the public will be able to participate and ask questions through the Microsoft Teams software or by phone. Please visit LebanonNH.gov/Live for full details.

THE AGENDA, IN ITS ENTIRETY IS AVAILABLE ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE AT [LEBANONNH.GOV](https://LebanonNH.gov)

AGENDA
BOARD OF CEMETERY TRUSTEES
January 12, 2021

AGENDA ITEM 2
APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

November 10, 2020

DRAFT

**CITY OF LEBANON
BOARD OF CEMETERY TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
REMOTE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
LebanonNH.gov/Live
TUESDAY, November 10, 2020
5:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Fran Hanchett, Vice Chair Antonio Palazzo, Caitlyn Hauke, David Muzzy, Susan Painter

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Pat McCarthy – Sexton, Paula Maville – Deputy City Manager, Paul Coats – Recreation and Parks Director

GUESTS: Colin Smith – Ped Bike

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM by Chair Fran Hanchett.
A Roll Call of Board Members who participated remotely is listed above.

Review of meeting procedures and NH RSA 91-A “Right-to-Know” requirements
Chair Hanchett delivered the Right to Know procedures to the Members and the public.

A. Announcement by Chair Hanchett: Goals for the Year

Chair Hanchett, as the new chair, expressed a desire to:
Continue to move forward and make the cemeteries a place of beauty and serenity
Make cemeteries self-sufficient.
And to provide a final resting place for residents of Lebanon.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 13, 2020

*Ms. Painter MOVED to approve the October 13, 2020 Minutes as presented with amendments.
Seconded by Mr. Muzzy.*

Amendments: Page 2, Line 47; Remove ‘the community member’ and Add ‘his sister’. Page 3, Line 40;
Add ‘West’ before Lebanon.

Roll Call Vote

Ms. Painter, Ms. Hauke, Mr. Muzzy, Vice Chair Palazzo, and Chair Hanchett all voting Yea.

None voted Nay.

**The Vote on the Motion was unanimously approved (5-0).*

III. CEMETERY SEXTON REPORT

A. Monthly Report

1 This month there were 2 full burials and 6 cremations. Half of each were on weekdays and half on
2 weekends. Mowing is done and they are leaf cleanup is ongoing. They are getting ready for winter.
3 Cornerstone's services are complete in School Street for Phase 2. A total of 68 stones were repaired and
4 cleaned. Five stones were beyond repair.

5
6 In September he spoke of vandalism in the Glenwood Cemetery and it has happened two more times.
7 The incidents were not caught on the camera. They are continuing to work with the police to resolve and
8 stepping up patrol. They are contemplating closing the gate in the evening. That would involve having
9 someone, likely the police lock off the roadways at night and having DPW open the road in the morning.
10 People would still be able to walk in. Paul Coats from the Recreation Department offered the use of a
11 security camera they have recently purchased that could be used to capture the culprit. It is more robust
12 than a game camera and will result in better images. The Logan Fountain, the second one in Glenwood is
13 completed. Mrs. Logan has visited the fountain.

14
15 The School Street building was contracted to have the foundation drilled. They came across a
16 cobblestone foundation that ran deep and prohibited them from lifting the building. It will be re-
17 evaluated in the future to determine if they will move forward with lifting the building. The new hire has
18 come on board. There is still some activity in the Valley Cemetery, and they are seeing erosion on the
19 embankment.

20 21 **B. Green Burial Update**

22
23 The update was discussed in the Old Business section.

24 25 **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

26 27 **A. Revisit the burials on private property that was not acted on last year**

28
29 A woman was reburied off Route 4 when road construction was done. The property is now for sale.
30 There is also casket buried on Hardy Hill. They discussed if it is possible to have something written into
31 the deeds to inform anyone who purchases a property. Mr. McCarthy offered to contact the real estate
32 agent and find out if it would make anyone uncomfortable about purchasing the property if they were told
33 someone is buried there. He will pass on the information and make the agent aware, but that may not get
34 the information get into the deed.

35 36 **B. Discuss and finalize a vote on bike access from the Rail Trail through Valley Cemetery**

37
38 Paul Coats, Recreational and Parks Director and Colin Smith from Ped Bike addressed the Board. They
39 understand the issues, that private gravesites have been walked on. Mr. Coats supports finding a way to
40 put a stop to this behavior. There should be a solution that would please everyone. Protecting private
41 cemetery plots is primary. Secondary is allowing people to access the cemetery from the Greenway. He
42 showed an aerial view of the cemetery showing the existing way people have been accessing the
43 cemetery. He also showed a potential pathway that reflected a connector path that could be used, leading
44 out to the Pine Tree Cemetery Road. This pathway would be developed by volunteers and they would
45 make every effort to prohibit people from using the cemetery as a trail head and parking cars in the
46 cemetery. There are areas for parking cars that are not in the cemetery and still close by. He proposed
47 allowing them to construct the pathway and evaluate if it remedies the issues of people riding and walking
48 over cemetery plots. If more restrictions are necessary to eliminate the issue, they would move in that
49 direction.

1 Mr. McCarthy thinks most of the problems have come from the bridge being closed. They are not
2 stopping people from riding bicycles unless they are causing damage or riding on graves. He feels that
3 allowing the access and then trying to stop it would likely be more problematic. Ms. Painter thanked Mr.
4 Coats for the suggestion and the summary of the situation. She cited other cemeteries that all have
5 connecting routes through them and people travel through the cemeteries to connect within their
6 neighborhoods. She said that it seems like Valley is being singled out and not allowing access. It was
7 also thought that having access might keep people from dumping in the area. She read an email from
8 Alise Prime and a letter from Joffrey Peters supporting the access to the Greenway through the cemetery.

9
10 The Board discussed any potential loss of grave sites if the fence line for the pathway was built. They
11 also discussed adding signage to direct people to use the pathway to access the Greenway instead of going
12 through the cemetery. Colin Smith spoke about how they are hoping to produce signage and keep bikers
13 and pedestrians following the paths and keeping them from creating a nuisance. There would be
14 additional grass maintenance related to weed whacking. The recreation department maintains the
15 greenway but did not offer to maintain the fence along the pathway. That would be DPW work.

16
17 Doug Boisvert spoke and asked who established the trail head at the Valley Cemetery. The Greenway
18 committee has done nothing to establish a trail to the cemetery in any official capacity. At one point
19 some type of map was posted showing a proposed trail head and that was corrected. There is an area
20 across from the cemetery that is a trail head and Valley Cemetery might have been used for a naming
21 purpose to show it was close to the cemetery. It may have been a miscommunication. At one time, the
22 recreational department asked the State if they could use an old access road that was built during the
23 highway construction, the request was to establish a linkage that would not impede any cemetery plots.
24 That request was denied because that area is under Federal jurisdiction, and they dropped efforts to build
25 a trail. Ms. Maville clarified that there was a map on the website because there was confusion about the
26 access behind the Jewish Cemetery and the draft map for a proposed trail head through the cemetery.
27 That map was removed several months ago.

28
29 Ms. Painter discussed the sliver of property that would become the pathway along a fence. She asked if
30 that would ever be used for burials. That roadside edge it is about 15 feet wide, enough for two graves
31 along that whole stretch. It would be enough for about 100 graves. The State owns the rail trail, but they
32 have permitted all the uses and requirements to maintain to the rail trail. Mr. McCarthy asked Mr. Coats
33 if he would check with the State to determine if they would allow the connector path. He responded that
34 the State has been in support of it, which is different from the Federal jurisdiction. This western side that
35 is proposed is not Federally regulated.

36
37 ***Sue Painter MOVED to continue discussions with the City on exploring a pathway from the Mascoma***
38 ***Greenway through the Valley Cemetery.***
39 ***Seconded by Mr. Muzzy.***

40
41 **Roll Call Vote**

42 ***Mr. Muzzy, Ms. Painter, Ms. Hauke, Vice Chair Palazzo, and Chair Hanchett all voting Yea.***

43 ***None voted Nay.***

44 ****The Vote on the Motion was unanimously approved (5-0).***

45
46 Ms. Maville asked what further investigation is being requested by the Board. They responded:

- 47 1. Defining the actual desired pathway
- 48 2. Impact on potential grave sales
- 49 3. Any liability concerns
- 50 4. Maintenance

1 5. Determination of State and Federal property lines and jurisdiction
2

3 **C. Progress on curbing owners**
4

5 Chair Hanchett created a list of graves with curbing and it was verified by Mr. McCarthy. In most of the
6 lots with curbing, the owners are deceased, and Staff are not aware of the next of kin. There is only
7 contact information for 2 of the graves. The curbing is being maintained and they hope to educate people
8 if they are seen. In the future, the form that has been created will keep track of relatives and contact
9 information. It seems wasteful to take up the curbing because it is being maintained. The Staff are not
10 having issues with the curbing. If the curbing does not continue to be maintained, they can remove the
11 curbing. There were no objections from the Board to allow DPW to decide if there is any need to make
12 further efforts to have the curbing removed.
13

14 **D. Baby/Infant Sections – Finalize plans so estimates can be obtained**
15

16 The prices on the columns seem steep, but they are large pieces of granite. Because the columns are 8
17 feet long, there likely would not be much increase in the price if the engraving is done by the granite
18 distributor. The image of a lamb is going to be used. How the engraving is done, digital or hand etching,
19 depends on the finish on the granite. Previously the Board said one column would have Baby Land with
20 dates and the two others would say Infant Graves with dates. The dates need to be verified. The most
21 expensive part is the type of drawing, which will impact what type of granite is used. Mr. Palazzo
22 clarified what would be written so he can get an estimate from his sister for the cost to engrave the
23 columns. Previously polished granite on the front and back was quoted. Polishing only the front might
24 reduce the cost by 30%. Polished granite requires less maintenance and will make the letters stand out.
25 The size is approximately 10 inches by 6 inches by 8 feet. Ms. Painter will send draft images of the
26 words, dates and pictures of the diagrams that can be sent out for pricing. Mr. McCarthy will send her the
27 picture of the lamb they want to use. They will get prices on the granite, the finish and the engraving so
28 the Members can do a comparison.
29

30 **E. Natural/Green Burials: Review draft outline of proposed amendments and discuss**
31 **process to move forward**
32

33 Chair Hanchett asked if everyone had a chance to review the documents that were provided to the Board.
34 Mr. McCarthy started the discussion. To produce the document, he reviewed materials and documents
35 from other cemeteries and reviewed the Board's documents and the materials and language with Ms.
36 Hauke. They combined all the information and came up with conclusions about what would work and
37 what would not work and what would likely work best for Lebanon. The Green Burial Counsel was
38 consulted, and this draft represents what is thought to be appropriate for the Lebanon situation. The
39 Board members discussed how to move this forward based on past discussions, concerns and questions.
40 This is a very rough draft outline. The Board will continue to review what was presented to evaluate what
41 is not addressed, where other information should be acquired, and other people who have experience with
42 green burials. It would be helpful to have questions to ask other experts. Eventually legal consult will be
43 important as well.
44

45 Mr. McCarthy said an additional location has been discussed. One potential place is the Old Pine Tree
46 Cemetery. It has natural burials from back in the 1800s. On the top it is fairly flat and that area could be
47 utilized. There are no maps of that area, but a scan would indicate what areas can be used.
48

49 Ms. Hauke discussed the draft. She believes it is a good foundation to start their work. They are trying to
50 find a balance between DPW needs and the people who want green burials. It would be a good idea to

1 have more input from the community as well as collecting Board Members thoughts to review at a
2 subsequent meeting. They are going to set expectations and establish next steps and determine when to
3 invite comments from the public. It feels like there are major categories that need to be broken down
4 further to have constructive discussions. An example is it is difficult to understand how the information
5 was obtained and what lead to the statements in the document. Clarification on the language and where it
6 came from and how was it arrived at would be helpful. The sources of information were evaluated and
7 incorporated by City staff and the City Manager based on how they thought green burials could function
8 for the City of Lebanon. One important point is what maintenance the City would be responsible for and
9 what is the City's liability. The City will be involved in digging graves. They do not intend to provide
10 the services of the lowering devices going forward for any type of burial. Funeral homes and people in
11 the business are accustomed to having their own lowering device and this will not be questionable. The
12 funeral homes will contract with others to do the work.

13
14 They concluded they will take the draft that was presented, get input, determine what information is
15 needed and what questions need to be asked, within the next two weeks, to bring this back to the
16 December meeting. Ms. Maville will incorporate numbers into the document so everyone can have a
17 point of reference for discussing the topics. The review process will incorporate revisions into the
18 document as decisions are made, so Members can see the revisions on the screen as they are done. Ms.
19 Maville asked to receive the Board's feedback by 11/20/2020.

20
21 Mary Childers asked if she could speak and was asked to hold her comments, as an opportunity will be
22 provided at a future meeting. Rainie Kelly asked to send some questions and comments. Any member of
23 the public who would like to submit comments and questions can do so by emailing Mr. McCarthy and
24 Ms. Maville at the City. They will make sure the information makes its way to the Board.

25 26 **V. NEW BUSINESS**

27 28 **A. Discussion of Board and Committee Contact Form**

29
30 People are asking general questions. Any specific questions or communication that needs to be addressed
31 by the Board will be forwarded to the Board to make sure it is discussed. Very general questions are
32 being asked and tracked. They will keep track of the number of forms that are submitted every month.

33 34 **VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS-NONE**

35 36 **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

37
38 ***Vice Chair Palazzo MOVED for adjournment.***
39 ***Seconded by Mr. Muzzy.***

40 41 **Roll Call Vote**

42 ***Vice Chair Palazzo, Mr. Muzzy, Ms. Painter, Ms. Hauke, and Chair Hanchett all voting Yea.***

43 ***None voted Nay.***

44 ****The Vote on the Motion was unanimously approved (5-0).***

45
46 The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 PM.

47
48 Respectfully Submitted,
49 Linda Billings
50 Recording Secretary

AGENDA
BOARD OF CEMETERY TRUSTEES
January 12, 2021

AGENDA ITEM 4A
OLD BUSINESS:

UV MOUNTAIN BIKE EMAIL WITH SIGNERS & REASONS

From: UV Mountain Bike <uvmountainbike@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, January 2, 2021 4:49 PM

To: Paula Maville <Paula.Maville@lebanonnh.gov>; Shaun Mulholland <Shaun.Mulholland@lebanonnh.gov>

Cc: Paul Coats <paul.coats@lebanonnh.gov>; Liz Burdette <liz.burdette@hanovernh.org>; Clayton Morlock <crmorlock@gmail.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]Sacred Heart Cemetery/ MRG access path petition

To all whom it concerns;

Upper Valley Mountain Bike Association (UVMBA) created an online petition to allow people to show support for a connection between the Mascoma River Greenway Rail Trail and Mascoma Street, near the popular "Nature Walk" trailhead access to Landmark Tract. The connection is meant for all types of users, and is intended to safeguard the cemetery while respecting the deceased.

Although UVMBA created the petition, we are not the only entity interested in this connection, nor was the petition written solely for the benefit of mountain bikers. The petition has garnered sizable support, more than 250 individuals at the most recent check. The recent Valley News article on the subject brought to our attention that the petition needs to be submitted more formally. To that end, the signatures are attached, as well as links to additional comments and the original petition; all the same has been submitted to the cemetery board via the Lebanon City website form. A UVMBA representative plans to attend the Jan 12th Board of Cemetery Trustees meeting, although we believe the petition is self-explanatory.

Please let us know if there is anything else you need.

-Gretchen Stokes
Board Member writing on behalf of UVMBA

- Petition: <http://chnng.it/Q6HTLnYX>
- Comments and reasons for signing: (bottom of this page, also attached): <https://www.change.org/p/board-of-trustees-of-the-cemetery-approval-to-create-a-connection-from-the-mascoma-river-greenway-to-nature-walk-trailhead>



Recipient: Lebanon NH Board of Cemetery Trustees

Letter: Greetings,

Approval to create a connection from the Mascoma River Greenway to
Nature Walk trailhead

Signatures

Name	Location	Date
Gretchen Stokes	Burlington, VT	2020-12-03
Anna Schaal	White River Junction, VT	2020-12-04
Albert Miltner	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-04
Adam Madonia	Hanover, NH	2020-12-04
Erin Umphrey	Hanover, NH	2020-12-04
Liz Burdette	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-04
Jennie Chamberlain	Hanover, NH	2020-12-04
Ayaz Asif	Springfield, NH	2020-12-04
Travis Paige	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-04
Sarah McMaster	Plainfield, NH	2020-12-04
Leah Nicholson	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-04
Robert Houseman	Hanover, NH	2020-12-04
Janet Moore	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-04
Joe Cheevers	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-04
Rebecca Maurer	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-04
Sherry Irani	Irvine, CA	2020-12-04
Henry Wagner	New Hyde Park, NY	2020-12-04
Jean Molloy	West lebanon, NH	2020-12-04
Karen Ogrinc	Hanover, NH	2020-12-04
Elizabeth Nestler	Claremont, NH	2020-12-04

Name	Location	Date
Jill Lewis	Claremont, NH	2020-12-04
Peter Weitzman	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-04
Andrew Jones	White River Jct, VT	2020-12-04
Bryan Natusch	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-04
Henry Billings	West Lebanon, NH	2020-12-04
Darrel Lasell	Williamstown,, VT	2020-12-05
Nick Ogrinc	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-05
Shawn Mason	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-05
James Offensend	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-05
David Pepper	South Burlington, VT	2020-12-05
Jim Walsh	White River Junction, VT	2020-12-05
Althea Goff-Bugbee	Saint Johnsbury, VT	2020-12-05
Miranda Hunt	Davis, US	2020-12-05
Amanda Morris	Catawissa, US	2020-12-05
Sean Smith	Hanover, NH	2020-12-05
Britton Goodale	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-05
Erik Endrulat	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-05
tony Dickerson	Brookline, MA	2020-12-05
Melissa Roth	Hanover, NH	2020-12-05
Juliann Hamblin	Hartland, VT	2020-12-05
Bruce Prince	Henniker, NH	2020-12-05
Guy Daniels	plainfield, NH	2020-12-05

Name	Location	Date
Gregory Hagley	Hanover, NH	2020-12-05
Bill Brown	White River Jct., VT	2020-12-05
Eric Desjardins	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-05
Jeff Meyer-Lorentson	Etna, NH	2020-12-05
Erik Valentine	New York, NY	2020-12-05
Chuck Gates	Nashua, NH	2020-12-05
Craig Vettori	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-05
Jill Cutting	Sunapee, NH	2020-12-05
Daniel Larsen	Plainfield, NH	2020-12-05
Vivian Buckley	St Johnsbury, VT	2020-12-05
Brian Howland	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-05
Tom Yennerell	Springfield, VT	2020-12-05
Stephanie Heil	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-05
Adrian Clapp	Scituate, MA	2020-12-05
Charlie Hitchcock	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-05
Paul Teplitz	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-05
Eric Ellingson	Plainfield, NH	2020-12-05
Robert Davis	Etna, NH	2020-12-05
Simon Hillier	Etna, NH	2020-12-05
Erin Gooch	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-05
Paul Barr	West Lebanon, NH	2020-12-05
Edward Meyer	East Thetford, VT	2020-12-05

Name	Location	Date
Theo Padnos	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-05
Brayton Osgood	White River Junction, VT	2020-12-05
kris caudle	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-05
Dale Perzanowski	hartford, VT	2020-12-05
Brian Moses	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-05
jacky dick	Andover, MA	2020-12-05
Michael Goetinck	Norwich, VT	2020-12-05
Lorenzo Torresani	Norwich, VT	2020-12-05
Britton Mann	Etna, MA	2020-12-05
Josie Bourne	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-05
Dick DuMez	Enfield, NH	2020-12-05
Derek Mulcahy	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-05
Jeremy Griffiths	Hanover, NH	2020-12-06
Bruce Hathorn	West Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Alex Hall	East Thetford, VT	2020-12-06
Ross Connor	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
David Koch	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Joanne Ophals	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Ethan Dow	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Jerry Halstead	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Clayton Morlock	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Jennifer Duby	Dorchester, MA	2020-12-06

Name	Location	Date
John Hinckley	Holyoke, MA	2020-12-06
Ava Perry	Harker Heights, US	2020-12-06
Araz nazarian	San Fernando, US	2020-12-06
Daniel Feeley	Las Vegas, US	2020-12-06
Brayden Szuch-Gantick	Alexandria, US	2020-12-06
Anna Laidler	East Stroudsburg, US	2020-12-06
Toni Hamilton	Detroit, US	2020-12-06
Estelle McLaughlin	Omaha, US	2020-12-06
Conor Burke	Philadelphia, US	2020-12-06
Wendy Slater	Sacramento, US	2020-12-06
Yara Bankz	Bronx, US	2020-12-06
Yolanda Meza	Galt, US	2020-12-06
Daniel Tucker	Castle rock, US	2020-12-06
Corinne Miller-Williams	Batavia, US	2020-12-06
Isla McCollum	Centreville, US	2020-12-06
annalisa valdes	springfield, US	2020-12-06
arianna gallegos	San Leandro, US	2020-12-06
Taylor Rose	Spokane, US	2020-12-06
Flo F	Los Angeles, US	2020-12-06
Oliver Conley	Dayton, US	2020-12-06
Joffrey Peters	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
JUNGHWA RYOO	Flushing, US	2020-12-06

Name	Location	Date
Noa Eustache	Rancho Santa Margarita, US	2020-12-06
aiden tingler	Barberton, US	2020-12-06
Lucas Clowser	Fort Polk, US	2020-12-06
Valerie Charbonneau	Putnam, US	2020-12-06
Gwen Chester	Lenoir, US	2020-12-06
Emma Yufanyi	Fairfax Station, US	2020-12-06
Francesca M	US	2020-12-06
Kay Past	Valley View, US	2020-12-06
Justin Harris	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Victoria Johnson	Austin, US	2020-12-06
Loretta Young	Manassas, US	2020-12-06
William Farmer	Baltimore, US	2020-12-06
Rynia Brinson	Orlando, US	2020-12-06
Nadia Armstrong	Gaffney, US	2020-12-06
Maribel Marulanda	New York, US	2020-12-06
Yemar Ishet	Burke, US	2020-12-06
Joe Sigourney	Marquette, US	2020-12-06
Sophia Pimentel	Collingswood, US	2020-12-06
Matthew Stout	Woodstock, VT	2020-12-06
Eric Harbeck	Canaan, NH	2020-12-06
Jeff Cox	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Robert Jones	Hanover, NH	2020-12-06

Name	Location	Date
Ron Goodwin	West Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Katie Aman	Hanover, NH	2020-12-06
Courtney Dragiff	Norwich, VT	2020-12-06
David Dostal	Hanover, NH	2020-12-06
Mark Buck	Enfield, NH	2020-12-06
Dorian Rodizza	Grantham, NH	2020-12-06
Daniel Gottlieb	Norwich, VT	2020-12-06
George Hanna	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Nelson Carter	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Tom Bacon	Hanover, NH	2020-12-06
Marien Mitchell	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Dorcas DenHartog	Hanover, NH	2020-12-06
James Burnett	Canaan, NH	2020-12-06
Patrick Luckow	Hanover, NH	2020-12-06
Nadia Lafreniere	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Melissa Herman	Hanover, NH	2020-12-06
Laura LaMontagne	White River Junction, VT	2020-12-06
Jotham Burnett	canaan, NH	2020-12-06
Scott Gerlach	Enfield, NH	2020-12-06
Christopher McCown	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Patrick McCabe	West Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Emily Cousens	Lyme, NH	2020-12-06

Name	Location	Date
ROBERT DANIELS	Canaan, NH	2020-12-06
deepak karanwal	Hanover, NH	2020-12-06
Eric James	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Greg Lange	Lyme, NH	2020-12-06
Calvin Ells	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Noel Pauli	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Laura Johnson	Sharon, VT	2020-12-06
Scott Sanders	Hanover, NH	2020-12-06
Jennifer Hansen	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Susannah Gravel	Randolph, VT	2020-12-06
Sharon McMonagle	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Trish Wadlinger	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Anne Farrell	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Robert Humphries	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Reed Anderson	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
William Young	Hanover, NH	2020-12-06
Greg Wadlinger	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Cris Cote	Essex Jct, VT	2020-12-06
Katie Sparks	Leawood, US	2020-12-06
Charles Clemente	Staten Island, US	2020-12-06
Jared Toon	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Alex Fish	Hanover, NH	2020-12-06

Name	Location	Date
Mark Vojtko	Enfield, NH	2020-12-06
Lia Gerrish	Northfield, VT	2020-12-06
Gary Macia	Reading, VT	2020-12-06
Robyn Mosher	Norwich, VT	2020-12-06
Derek Griggs	Epping, NH	2020-12-06
Clay Odell	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-06
Erica Lobel	Norwich, VT	2020-12-07
Deb Tarricone	Hastings On Hudson, NY	2020-12-07
Amy Hansen	Seattle, WA	2020-12-07
Dave Lindberg	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-07
Laurie Reed	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-07
Harrison Bourne	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-07
christopher hansen	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-07
Michael Sullivan	Hanover, NH	2020-12-07
Norm Berman	Plainfield, NH	2020-12-07
Jonathan Hancock	CHICAGO, IL	2020-12-07
Abigail Hancock	Chicago, IL	2020-12-07
David Lysy	Lyme, NH	2020-12-07
Austin Davis	Hanover, NH	2020-12-07
Laurie Heels	West Lebanon, NH	2020-12-07
Nicole Losavio	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-07
Becky Owens	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-07

Name	Location	Date
Peter Mason	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-07
Leah Todd	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-07
Keriann Ketcham	Grantham, NH	2020-12-07
Tim Lin	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-07
Robert Ludew	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-07
Elizabeth Tedeschi	Hanover, NH	2020-12-07
Liz Swanton	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-07
Esme Cole	Hanover, OH	2020-12-07
Kelli Pippin	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-07
Martin Philip	Hanover, NH	2020-12-07
Sandy Bryant	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-07
Michael Moore	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-07
Craig Hansen	Hastings On Hudson, NY	2020-12-07
Bronwen Ballou	hanover, NH	2020-12-07
Timothy Smith	Hanover, NH	2020-12-07
George Pfeiffer	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-07
Jesse Norris	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-07
Alix Norris	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-07
Shayne Burton	West Boylston, US	2020-12-07
Christopher Stimson	Akron, US	2020-12-07
Emily Crane	Vernon, US	2020-12-07
cassandra tadda	Pittsburgh, US	2020-12-07

Name	Location	Date
Samuel Gu	Larkspur, US	2020-12-07
Ren Boderic	Los Angeles, US	2020-12-07
Joanne Buitenkant	Brooklyn, US	2020-12-07
adam morris	ferndale, US	2020-12-07
Giulia Brycen	Glen Cove, US	2020-12-07
Jacqueline Pyatt	Alexandria, US	2020-12-07
Michael Fintan Flanagan	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-07
Brandon Sierra	Phoenix, US	2020-12-07
Erin Hansen	Westwego, LA	2020-12-07
Nathan Schneck	West Lebanon, NH	2020-12-07
Kevin Kinerson	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-07
Charles Pinckney	Martinsburg, WV	2020-12-08
Beverly Hancock	Chicago, IL	2020-12-08
Carla Chandler	Meriden, NH	2020-12-08
Deanna Chyn	Hanover, NH	2020-12-08
Diane Paige	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-08
Jonathan Wilmot	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-08
Sarah Sherman	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-08
Robert Goldman	Portland, ME	2020-12-09
Gunnar Pope	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-09
Jason Ouelette	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-09
Kristin O'Rourke	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-10

Name	Location	Date
Allen Tate	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-11
Megan Alexander	Grantham, NH	2020-12-13
Kyle Chafin	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-14
Juan Perez Debrand	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-17
Christina Chamberlain	Lebanon, NH	2020-12-17
Chris Lord	Woodstock, VT	2020-12-18

These reasons can also be accessed at
<https://www.change.org/p/board-of-trustees-of-the-cemetery-approval-to-create-a-connection-from-the-mascoma-river-greenway-to-nature-walk-trailhead/c>

Reasons for signing

See why other supporters are signing, why this petition is important to them, and share your reason for signing (this will mean a lot to the starter of the petition).



Reasonable and win win for all parties plus connecting the two popular trails just extends the outdoor optionality in the upper valley improving quality of life.

♡ 0



I agree with the adjustment proposed by this petition to the pathway connecting the Mascoma River Greenway Trail and the Nature Walk. It seems like the proper thing to do and at little cost to the public treasury.

♡ 0



I've used the "unofficial" cemetery path a few years ago and wished there was a safe access. I hope this passes! The trail needs a few more access points!

♡ 0





Bryan Natusch
4 weeks ago

This is very needed! The MRG has been an amazing resource in the area, more than we ever imagined. Now the ability to go from there to the Boston Lot trails will make access even better!

❤️ 1



Sherry Irani
4 weeks ago

I care about trails.

❤️ 0



Jonathan Hancock
4 weeks ago

It is great to link valued trails to improve access and recreational engagement.

❤️ 0



Mark Vojtko
4 weeks ago

This is a good project. It provides safe access for cyclists to Boston lot. If cyclists can get to Boston lot easily, that means fewer cars on the road. Thanks!

❤️ 0



Anne Farrell
4 weeks ago

Adding pedestrian connectivity improves the quality of life and increases the value of our community. A respectful trail through the cemetery will benefit current residents and future generations. Connectivity increase the ability to recreate, improves community health, and allows for sustainable commuting.

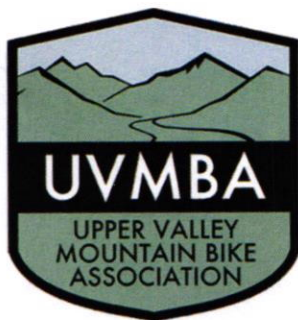
❤️ 0



AGENDA
BOARD OF CEMETERY TRUSTEES
January 12, 2021

AGENDA ITEM 4A
OLD BUSINESS:

BIKE PATH LETTERS OF SUPPORT



18 Mascoma Street
Lebanon, NH 03766

Board Members

Liz Burdette—

Chair

Chris Sweitzer -

Vice Chair

Jason Ouelette -

Treasurer

Anna Schaal—

Secretary

Clayton Morlock

Janet Moore

AJ Miltner

Gretchen Stokes

Jeff Meyer—

Lorentson

Letter of Support

Board of Cemetery Trustees

51 North Park Street

Lebanon, NH 03766

December 14, 2020

To the Lebanon Board of Cemetery Trustees,

The Upper Valley Mountain Bike Association is writing to express our support of the proposed connector trail from the Mascoma Greenway to Pine Tree Cemetery Road. This connection will allow walkers, runners, dog walkers and bikers to easily access the popular Nature Walk Trailhead for the Landmark and Boston Lot trail systems.

Without a sanctioned connection people will look for the best opportunity to get from the rail trail to the road in order to access to the trail head. The opportunistic lines are ripe to create conflict between families with loved ones in the cemetery and the board of Trustees.

A proper connection would accomplish two things. First, it would allow trail users the access they desire and direct them away from the sensitive areas of the cemetery to the appropriate road or path. This will reduce the potential for conflict between the groups. Second, the connection will keep pedestrians and bikers off of the road creating a safer path for travel as there are no sidewalks or shoulders along the road.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request. A member of the UVMBA's Board of Directors plans on attending your next meeting to answer any questions you may have for the club.

Sincerely,

*A local chapter of the
Vermont Mountain Bike
Association*

VMBA

VERMONT MOUNTAIN BIKE ASSOC.
SINCE 1997

From: Francis Oscadal <foscadal@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 9:27 AM
To: Paula Maville <Paula.Maville@lebanonnh.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Cemetery path to the Greenway

Hello Paula,

I would like to comment on a proposed path along the edge of the Sacred Heart and Valley cemeteries that was reported on in a recent issue of the VN.

I agree that maintaining the dignity of our cemeteries is important. And in this case it's very unfortunate that walkers and bikers are not respecting gravesites by traveling over them.

Responding to this issue by creating a path for bikes and pedestrians along the edge of the cemetery may be the best immediate solution. As Patrick McCarthy notes even with a path it may be a challenge to change people's habits, but without one we'll never know and without a path some people at least are sure to continue to ignore gravesites in their travel to the Greenway.

Giving people a positive alternative is a good first step. The path in conjunction with signs or other measures may go a long way to solving this issue. And if it doesn't work we'll know for sure that more restrictive measures are necessary.

Paul Coats is a strong but reasonable proponent of outdoor activities and access in the city. He's proven himself to be a responsible voice for recreational activities. So I feel confident that given the opportunity he will do a good job in creating a satisfactory and low key approach to the issue. And I believe he'll be an honest observer as to whether the path is successful or not.

Thanks for considering my comments.

Fran Oscadal
Ward 3
Lebanon, NH

AGENDA
BOARD OF CEMETERY TRUSTEES
January 12, 2021

AGENDA ITEM 4A
OLD BUSINESS:

LETTERS OPPOSING BIKE PATH

Dear City of Lebanon Cemetery Board Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views regarding the proposed bike path through Sacred Heart Cemetery.

As an introduction, close members of my family are buried in Secret Heart Cemetery. As well, for 10 years I was the Executive Assistant to the Catholic Diocese of Burlington Cemetery Board which was chaired by the Acting Bishop of Burlington and several Monsignors. I understand the nature of the issues and challenges you face and want to thank you for serving on this board and for taking seriously your role to honor and protect the resting place of those who have died.

My family settled in Lebanon well over 100 years ago and still call the City of Lebanon home. They have been engrained in the community working in the mills and also serving the City as firefighters, nurses, educators and mechanics. Some of you may remember my Aunt, Lena Picard, the older lady with the freshly pressed white apron and cap who sold candy and drinks behind the counter at the Lebanon Opera House. My uncle, Pete Ducharme who served Lebanon many years as a firefighter, was honored with a fire truck funeral procession with his flag draped casket carried through the City of Lebanon. My grandfather was a blacksmith in town and my father and uncles graduated from Lebanon High School, enlisted in WWII and were lucky enough to return to Lebanon after the war.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church has been and is my Lebanon family's parish. As a community of faith, many close members of my family are buried at Sacred Heart Cemetery as far back as at least 1937. That is when my Aunt and Uncle buried my cousin, their one month old daughter there. When many in my family purchased their lots over 80 years ago, it was their intent to have a place to reverently bury and honor their family members who had passed on. It was a place to go and quietly grieve and pray; to quietly talk to them; to be alone with them. It was a place we often went to on Sundays after Mass so we could all be together in spirit and as a family again. My family selected and purchased their lots with those solemn expectations as well as the general Catholic cemetery holding that Sacred Heart Cemetery is blessed, sacred ground. As some of you may not be Catholic, the Catholic Church's Canon Law guarantees permanence, reverence and respect for the remains of the deceased. It is our final resting place, as a community in faith, as we await the glory of the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is not a recreation area or park.

Secondly, the process for this bike path proposal by a city board is concerning. From review, it appears that Chapter 46 of the City of Lebanon Code will need to be dramatically changed to accommodate this proposed bike path. The bike path seems to be a use in conflict with the existing use of this land and therefore an incompatible use. As well, from my conversations with family members, cemetery lot owners and nearby Catholic clergy, it is questionable if this board has directly reached out to people who practice their religious faith here including local Catholic parishes and parishioners, as well as the

Bishop of the Diocese. They all have a vested interest linked in faith. As well, how will the Board safeguard the reverence of this sacred place should the rules and regulations be changed to accommodate this new use? How will they be enforced during burials when people are grieving and practicing their faith? This proposed use has serious implications. Sacred ground is no less sacred in faith despite being cared for now by the city. Neighbors to a proposed development would have received more notification about such a proposed change in use and been asked to comment as compared to what has been done here.

Finally, I have heard of the destruction and disregard for graves and the fence by bikers in the cemetery this past year. This proposal rewards that bad behavior and irreverence especially when an entrance is located only a quarter mile down the road. A bike path cannot conceivably be regulated and policed and accommodating this bad behavior is just wrong.

As someone who has close family buried here, regularly visits and honors them, and is a practicing Catholic, I am strongly opposed to changing the Code to accommodate this incompatible and unregulated use of such a blessed, sacred, reverent, and respectful space.

Thank you.

Michelle Ducharme Rocheleau

Patrick McCarthy

From: gwoodward1@juno.com
Sent: Sunday, January 3, 2021 3:24 PM
To: Patrick McCarthy
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Sacred Heart Cemetery Petition to Deny Bicycle Access

Re: Sacred Heart Cemetery Petition to Deny Bicycle Access

Dear Mr. McCarthy:

Please add my name to the petition against allowing bicycle access to the above captioned Lebanon, New Hampshire, cemetery.

A cemetery is sacred ground and should never be desecrated but must at all times be protected from any such acts of intrusion where beloved family and friends are interred and where the bereaved go to grieve, to pay their respects and have undisturbed time and quietude to remember and reflect.

I am the sister-in-law of Marsha J. (Townsend) Badagliacca, who has contacted you to have her name added to the petition against allowing bicycles in the cemetery. I am strongly in support of her position and am personally aggrieved that such lack of reverence would be contemplated regarding any cemetery, anywhere.

Sincerely,
Gina C. Woodward

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[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Patrick McCarthy

From: Janice Jasmin <jjasmin510@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 3, 2021 10:34 AM
To: Patrick McCarthy
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Petition to deny bike trail/ Sacred Heart Cemetary

Dear Mr. McCarthy,

Concerning a petition posted on Facebook regarding granting an access for a bike trail thru Sacred Heart Cemetary in Lebanon , I wish to protest and add my name to the list of those who feel as strongly as I. Having grown up in Lebanon and still living in the area going to the cemeteries where I have loved ones buried is an important and comforting ritual. My paternal grandparents and many Uncles and Aunts are interred there as well. This is hallowed ground and as children we were taught to go quietly and respectfully into the cemeteries we visited to pay our respects to our loved ones. We were taught not to ever walk on a grave. This was a time of solemnity. The people who wish to go to visit the graves of their loved ones should be afforded a place for quiet remembrance and reflection.

Sincerely,
Janice Helen Jasmin, nee
Townsend

Sent from my iPad

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https://us3.proofpointessentials.com/index01.php?mod_id=&mod_option=gitem&mail_id=09688038-aAXJvNBH63Pd&r_address=trick.mccarthy%40lebanonnh.gov&report=

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Patrick McCarthy

From: Marsha <marsha@badagliacca.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2020 3:13 PM
To: Patrick McCarthy
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Sacred Heart Cemetery

Re: Sacred Heart Cemetery
Subject: Petition to deny private access/desecration via bike trail

Dear Mr. McCarthy:

This concerns a petition posted on Facebook by Tess Wood regarding the desecration by a group using the Sacred Heart cemetery property in the City of Lebanon as a connection between two bicycle trails. I understand this improper use and violation of this sacred ground has been reported to the city by cemetery maintenance workers. I further understand this unidentified group is petitioning the City to allow their use of this unauthorized trail connection on cemetery property.

I write to protest such a petition or the approval of such in the strongest possible manner. It is unconscionable that any such usage should be granted, desecrating these grounds. I was born and raised in Lebanon, New Hampshire, and still consider it "home". I have relatives buried in the Sacred Heart Cemetery, including my paternal grandparents.

I add my voice and name to the petition. I understand that a meeting scheduled for early in the new year would be the forum in which to consider this very important issue. I respectfully request that this matter be dealt with and the usage request denied. Following is the information provided in the Facebook post by Tess Wood.

Sincerely,
Marsha Jean Badagliacca, née Townsend

"This is happening right now in the City of Lebanon, NH Is nothing sacred Anymore?

This is not PUBLIC property and should not be up for discussion!

This bicyclist group already has a means to get from 1 trail to another by exiting the Rail Trail at the Mascoma Street underpass and heading west.

I would like every family member, taxpayer, resident in the City of Lebanon or anyone who reads this, to think of your Dearly Departed and ask yourself if it is right to have a bicycle desecrate your family or friends resting place by running over it or through it? Tearing up the freshly buried with Fat tires on newly seeded soil. Them Tearing down any means of blocking these cyclists from coming into the Cemeteries.

We need your help. Please reach out with your permission to sign your name to the list to put a stop to the Person(s) who are petitioning to open this as a trail connector.

Thank you for your help in keeping our Cemeteries Sacred." [Tess Wood]

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AGENDA
BOARD OF CEMETERY TRUSTEES
January 12, 2021

AGENDA ITEM 4B
NATURAL/GREEN BURIALS:

OUTLINE FOR NATURAL BURIALS v3 COMBINED COMMENTS

OUTLINE OF DRAFT PROPOSED REGULATIONS FOR NATURAL BURIALS IN THE CITY OF LEBANON

For Review: January 12, 2021

“Natural” or “Green” burial promotes the natural decomposition of the body with minimal impact to the environment. The deceased are buried without the use of embalming fluids, burial vaults or modern caskets. It is understood that people choose natural burials for a host of different reasons. The option for a natural burial within the City of Lebanon municipal cemeteries is offered to provide an opportunity to those individuals and families wishing for a more simple, natural, and environmentally sensitive option for end of life.

SUE - Second sentence: change “burial vaults” to “permanent outside container” to maintain consistency with Chapter 46 verbiage

SUE - Third sentence: I suggest that the third sentence be rewritten to the following:

“The City of Lebanon provides an option within its municipal cemeteries for people who desire a more simple, natural, and environmentally sensitive option for end of life.”

SUE - Consider adding that “ in the spirit of natural burials, gravesites are not to be maintained by the City of Lebanon”

Natural burials within municipal cemeteries are only permitted in areas that will not degrade the land. This limitation is based on what is best for ecological preservation.

CAITLYN – Change to read: “Natural burials within municipal cemeteries are allowed only in permitted areas.”

TONY - Add “This regulation is supplement to Ordinance 46 and not independent of it.”

SUE - Who is the audience for this summary?

For all “Natural Burial Grounds” the following shall apply:

All other rules and regulations for Lebanon Cemeteries shall apply to natural burial grounds unless policies and procedures are inconsistent with this section or with the purpose and intent of natural burials, in which this section will govern.

A. Natural Burial Ground Procedure:

1. Due to limited space natural burials within municipal cemeteries are reserved for Lebanon residents only.

SUE - Rewrite to: Natural burials within municipal cemeteries are restricted for City of Lebanon residents

PUBLIC COMMENT:

SARAH RILEY - I request that the City remove the condition limiting burials in its NBGs to Lebanon residents. Rather, I suggest that the City change its price structure to include a surcharge for non-residents regardless of green or conventional burial.

2. All burials and services must be conducted and or overseen by a Licensed New Hampshire Funeral Director and the Cemetery Sexton or his/her designated agent.

CAITLYN – Is this different from a traditional burial?

SUE - How does this regulation differ from current procedures?

SUE - Does this sentence need to be part of the regulations?

3. Prior to burial, all families, funeral homes or designated agents responsible must sign and submit a release of liability and waiver form to include responsibility of all attendees of services. Such signatures must be witnessed and notarized by a NH notary of public.

TONY – Since this is such a new process, I agree with this. We do not want to be open to any liability. This is probably related to injury/sickness. I think we need to develop and include a sample liability and waiver form.

SUE - These suggested regulations seem unfair and unreasonable.

SUE - What is the rationale for this requirement?

SUE - How could this be mandated or monitored by the city?

SUE - Burials are generally public events on on public grounds. How can the city, an agent, a funeral home, or a family prevent anyone from attending?

SUE - Why the notary?

SUE - Will this apply to the UVJC?

SUE - What about the misconception to the public when they hear of waivers and notaries for a burial?

PUBLIC COMMENT:

SARAH RILEY - Requiring a notarization of a waiver form seems like an extra burden to put on a grieving family. I would not add this hoop to a green burial unless the City can demonstrate a real need for this hurdle.

4. At time of scheduling burial, a filed certified copy of death must be submitted to the Department of Public Works and reviewed by Cemetery Sexton ensuring no contagious or potentially hazardous viruses or diseases contributed to the cause of death. Any cause in question will be referred to and reviewed by the NH Dept. of Health, Center for Disease Control and or the State of NH Chief Medical Examiner's office. Should it be determined by the NH Dept. of Health, Center for Disease Control and or the State of NH Chief Medical Examiner's office that the cause of death could result in the possible infection and or spread of potentially hazardous viruses or contagious diseases, a natural burial will not be permitted.

CAITLYN – Wouldn't this apply to any burial? In which case, this should not be limited to this section of the bylaws.

SUE - This is poorly written.

SUE - I assume that the intent is to obtain a copy of the *death certificate* and not a "*certified copy of death*".

SUE - There is no reference to the words Death Certificate in any ordinance or regulation within the city (search on LebanonNH site). It is not mentioned once in Chapter 46.

SUE - Death Certificates fall outside the Board's purview and should remain that way.

SUE - There is no reference to the words Death Certificate in Chapter 289.

SUE - Does EVERY burial in the city require a "filed certified death certificate?"

SUE - Is this an existing requirement within the city? If not, why is this required for natural burials?

SUE - Doesn't the funeral home provide a certified copy to client?

SUE - Isn't the funeral home in contact with the City when scheduling burials?

SUE - Whats the difference between a filed and unfiled copy?

SUE - When would there ever be a certificate of death that is unfiled?

SUE - Does the sexton have access to this type of information ?

SUE - Will this be required for burying persons in the UVJC?

SUE - The sexton is not an expert in contagious disease (nor is she/he expected to be so) and should not have any authority or responsibility to make decisions on contagious diseases.

SUE - There are a limited know number of contagious diseases, like Ebola or MERS. There will be new ones, but I expect any death around around a contagion would receive considerable local or national attention. I've read that in these cases, the danger is most often to the medical examiners or to the persons preparing the body for burial and not those providing the burial.

SUE - After being provided with a definition of the *filed certified death certificate*, the paragraph should at least be rewritten as follows after:

SUE - "Natural burials are not permitted if the cause of death is determined to be from a contagious virus or disease as defined by the NH Dept. of Health, Center for Disease Control and or the State of NH Chief Medical Examiner's office."

5. Natural burial lots are six (6) foot by eleven (11) foot (66 square foot) each. Each natural burial lot is limited to the remains of a single (1) body.

TONY – I agree with this statement, there is no reference that the grave should be a standard size.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

SARAH RILEY - According to Lee Webster, burial plots for green burial vary slightly throughout the country, but the average size of green burial plots is the same size as a conventional grave. I request that burial lots remain the same size and cost as conventional lots unless evidence can be provided justifying the change.

6. Burial plots will be sold, and natural burials will occur in sequential order based on the time of death and interment. The row and number of the site will be entered into the cemetery management software.

CAITLYN – It should be made clear that these are specific lots (it that's the case). This is no different than traditional burials, if they are purchasing a specific space. If they are occurring sequentially (deed owner does not have specific lot, but rather rights to a space), that should be made more clear.

SUE - This is confusing.

SUE - Burial plots will be sold and deeded?

SUE - Doesn't this complicate burial and access to the grave?

SUE - Remove reference to the row and site being entered into the cemetery management software. This information will be recorded the same way other traditional lots are purchased or transferred and is not specific to green burials.

7. The digging of the burial lot grave is the responsibility of a duly licensed NH funeral home and/or director and shall be supervised by the Lebanon Cemetery Sexton or his/her designated agent. Family members may not dig graves without the permission of the Lebanon Public Works Director. If permission is granted, the digging will be done under the supervision of the Cemetery Sexton or his/her designated agent. All Funeral Homes, contractors, families, or designated agents permitted to dig a burial grave will be required to sign a waiver of liability provided by the city.

CAITLYN – If power equipment AND hand digging are options, this could be explicit here. Why are these treated differently than traditional burials? I understand other towns have the funeral home take care of the digging, but why would it be different within Lebanon solely based on the type of burial?

TONY – Insert “and covering” between “The digging” and “of the burial plot.”

TONY - Is the Waiver of Liability the same as mentioned in A.3?

TONY – For burials, should we mention a time limit when the body should be buried? Something like: “Body should be completely buried within 24 hours of death.” Can bodies be refrigerated before burial to extend time before burial? If so, how would this be done?

SUE - The term digging is confusing.

SUE - Isn't this the same as preparing a grave?

SUE - How will this impact the UVJC which already allows green burials? Will the City continue to prepare those graves even if they are a green burial?

SUE - Digging graves by hand is a arduous process that could take days. I would suggest that it is “addressed on a case by case basis.”

SUE - What is the rationale for Lebanon to separate the responsibilities between natural and traditional burials.

8. Natural burials require the bottom of the outside coffin or casket to be at a depth of (5) feet below the natural surface of the ground with a minimum of three (3) feet previously excavated material on top of the coffin or casket to the natural surface of the ground. All material must be compacted and an additional eighteen (18) inches of topsoil be mounded above the natural surface of the ground to accommodate for settling. Verification of depth will be verified by the Cemetery Sexton or his/her designee.

CAITLYN – The recommended depth should be 2-3 feet. The total depth is usually closer to 4 feet, as this is the best depth for microorganisms to decompose the body effectively. There is no evidence to suggest animal disturbance will occur at these depths when done accurately and appropriately.

TONY – I would like to discuss this further. Maybe there is a reason to have a more shallow grave.

SUE - 5 feet is ridiculous. There is no evidence that supports 5’.

SUE - This has been discussed by the board many times.

SUE - The verification statement should be removed; unless we make mention that the sexton measures the depths of traditional graves.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

SARAH RILEY - To paraphrase Lee Webster, burial depth for green burial is 3.5-4 ft from the bottom of the grave to the ground surface. Anything deeper is useless for achieving the main goal of aerobic, efficient, and organic decomposition. This depth affords a good 18-24 inches of soil buffer even before mounding, which can add another foot or two. Under these conditions, there will be no animals digging, no smells, no problem. I encourage the City to do more research into this topic.

9. All lowering devices, greens, tents and chairs will be the sole responsibility of the Funeral Home and or family to provide, set up and remove following services.

CAITLYN – Since this now applies to all burials, it does not need to be here as it is not specific to green burial.

SUE - This should be removed as it applies to all burials

SUE - I find it interesting that as board we approved increases in fees. I thought it was so the city would collect those extra revenues. But the city is sub-contracting out the work.

B. Care and Maintenance:

1. Mowing, trimming and maintenance of lots will be the sole responsibility of the lot owner or ones designated agent. The City of Lebanon will not be responsible for any mowing, trimming, or leveling of graves. Pruning may be done to assist in the management of invasive species and will be performed by the department of public works. Fertilization, irrigation and pesticides are prohibited.

TONY – Consider periodic review and maintenance of the condition of the grave and landscaping fur up to five years by the lot owner.

SUE - The current SF cost of a green burial plot is the same as a traditional plot. Which I'm led to assume would have included maintenance...

2. Materials for interment: Human remains must be contained within a ridged casket, coffin or renewable container without nails, staples, glue, or any fastener that will remain in the ground.

CAITLYN – Lee Webster says the Green Burial Council would allow these items since they are a small fraction of what is buried (“we don’t remove implants either, for example”). Requiring a casket without any glue or fasteners would be somewhat prohibitive, especially if shrouds are not allowed.

TONY – Add “provided by the lot owner” between “renewable container” and “without nails” so the sentence reads: “Materials for internment: Human remains must be contained within a ridged casket, coffin or renewable container, provided by the lot owner, without nails, staples, glue, or any fastener that will remain in the ground.”

SUE - See comments under item 3

3. Exterior finishes of casket or container may not include latex, metallic or oil-based products.

CAITLYN – What if it is a plant-based oil?

SUE - Items 2 and 3 can be combined and rewritten.

SUE - What is the problem with having nails (which rust away)?

SUE - What types of containers does the UVJC use.

SUE - If the UVJC uses a “butterdish” partial vault burial, and have a nailed container, how is this different?

4. Upon ordering of grave opening and service, Funeral Home and or director will be required to sign acknowledgment and statement that the casket or coffin being used meets all-natural burial requirements outlined by the city.

SUE - If that container that doesn’t have glue, staples, or fasteners actually exists.

5. No embalming

SUE - This should be rewritten to say that bodies for green burial will not be embalmed.

SUE - What if I want a showing before being buried?

SUE - Can’t I be embalmed and then buried?

SUE - Whats the danger?

6. No vault

CAITLYN (Pertaining to numbers 5 & 6) – These aren’t really related to care and maintenance, so perhaps should be moved to a different part of the section.

SUE - This should be rewritten to say that bodies buried in designated green burial areas will not have a permanent outside container.

7. Grave markers are permitted. A flat stone may be placed at the foot of the plot as a marker. No chemicals may be used to enhance the etching. The stone must be level with the ground and may not exceed twelve (12) inches by twenty-four (24) inches in size.

SUE - Who installs?

SUE - What is the procedure?

SUE - Can chemicals be used to enhance etchings on traditional burial monumentation?

C. Fee Schedule

CAITLYN – I understand this (the lot purchase fee) is higher due to the increased square footage, but half of this would be for the Preservation Fund, which these graves would never benefit from, correct? Does this matter? (I’m not sure.)

Natural Burials	
Lot Purchase six (6) feet by eleven (11) feet or 66 cubic feet	\$900
Weekday during operating business hours	\$400

Weekday after operating business hours	\$400, plus \$100 per hour after operating business hours
Weekend or holiday	\$700

TONY – The table contains two different items: the cost of the lot and the cost of burial. Should be split with two subtitles.

TONY – This table does not list all of the costs. I think we should mention perpetuity costs and anything else.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

MARY CHILDERS - For Natural Burial the plot costs \$900 for a probably unnecessary 66 cubic feet as opposed to a Standard Burial plot costing \$600 for 44 cubic feet and covering more services. I do not understand why it is proposed that Natural Burial be excluded from the Cemetery Maintenance Special Revenue Fund. It is expected to pay more to the city and get much less.

Burial costs are in addition and equivalent, but it appears that Natural Burial is expected to pay a funeral home to dig the grave rather than Public Works doing it, as it does for Standard Burial. And then it has to buy more maintenance services from a funeral home in an ongoing, unpredictable way. A financial disincentive is being created. I would be happy to be told I've misread something and to stand corrected.

I quote the relevant sections below:

STANDARD BURIAL

The \$600 for a Standard Burial plot includes \$300 for the Cemetery Maintenance Special Revenue Fund. It includes the following services.

From ordinance 2020-03:

46.8 B -- "The City shall be responsible for maintenance of individual lots to the extent of mowing and trimming of grass at reasonable intervals, the raking and cleaning of lots, and grading and seeding, all at levels to be determined in the discretion of the Cemetery Trustees, in light of available funds from pre-existing perpetual care funds, and use of the Cemetery Maintenance and Preservation Trust Fund."

The \$450 and up full burial charges include the following:

46.7 B -- "The preparation of graves and laying out of grave side ceremonial material shall be the responsibility of the Department Public Works."

IN CONTRAST . . .

NATURAL BURIAL draft proposal

(The use of bullet points rather than numbers in the draft document makes it difficult for the reader to track what I'm pointing to, alas).

The \$900 lot charge leaves the owner responsible for maintenance, compared to 46.8 B above.

p. 14 of 15; *A. Care and Maintenance*: " Mowing, trimming and maintenance of lots will be the sole responsibility of the lot owner or ones designated agent."

Given this proviso, how do we handle adjacent lot owners wanting different thing?

The \$400 and up burial charge provides very limited service, compared to 46.7 B above.

p. 14 of 15; *A. Care and Maintenance*: "The City of Lebanon will not be responsible for any mowing, trimming, or leveling of graves. Pruning may be done to assist in the management of invasive species and will be performed by the department of public works."

p. 15 of 15; *B. Natural Burial Ground Procedure*: "The digging of the burial lot grave is the responsibility of a duly licensed NH funeral home and/or director and shall be supervised by the Lebanon Cemetery Sexton or his/her designated agent. Family members may not dig graves without the permission of the Lebanon Public Works Director. If permission is granted, the digging will be done under the supervision of the Cemetery Sexton or his/her designated agent. All Funeral Homes, contractors, families, or designated agents permitted to dig a burial grave will be required to sign a waiver of liability provided by the city."

To repeat an earlier question so that it does not get lost, am I to understand from the above that in addition to paying the Lebanon burial rate, those who choose Natural Burial must pay a funeral home directly for a service that is included in the burial rate for Standard Burial? (Mary Childers)

GENERAL COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

TONY:

1. We should do a further review of the Green Burial Council (GBC) recommendations.
2. The GBC lists two types of green burials...Natural, Hybrid, and Conservation. Which one are we doing? If the location is separate than it has to be Natural or Conservation?
3. I am very concerned about liability. I think we should protect ourselves and the city because, after all, we are the Trustees.
4. Will we need approvals from other boards/committees to establish the area? How about medical approval? Who else should review this regulation outside of the City?

PUBLIC COMMENT:

SARAH RILEY - As stated in the draft, all other rules and regulations for Lebanon Cemeteries apply to Natural Burial Grounds (NBGs), unless inconsistent with the new NBG section. Thus, I hope that the final version of this document will not state anything that would be a universal condition of all burial in our cemeteries. Currently the draft has a few sections that I think should be removed because of this condition, including the discussions of disease and the Department of Public Health, the responsibility for lower devices, tents, etc.

SARAH RILEY - The reduction of services provided by the City for green burials. It is unrealistic and unfair to cede grave digging and lot maintenance responsibilities to lot owners, their families, Funeral Homes, or designated agents.

MARY CHILDERS - Lebanon's sustainability efforts acknowledge that the effects of climate change are already being felt locally. We witness catastrophic events in the US and the world. Some of us yearn to make one of our final acts – choice of what to do with our bodily remains – an environmentally friendly act. The safety of Public Works employees must be taken into account as well as liability concerns of course, but based on reading of previous documents generated within this Board it seems to me that unfounded fears are being catered to. I urge the Board to make sure that the research process and legal advice begins with "How can we do this safely" rather than "How can we justify not doing this because of safety and liability concerns?" The questions we ask tilt the answers we receive. The answers an advocate for Natural Burial and the environment provides may open up the Board's perspective on what is desirable for the common good and possible. I urge you to consult with a variety of experts, including problem-solvers as well as problem-emphasizers.

RAINIE KELLY - As the Board moves from a rough draft to a finalized version of the regulations, I strongly encourage the inclusion of a statement about how an option for NB moves Lebanon closer to its stated goal of being a regional leader in working towards less reliance on fossil-fuel consumption. (City of Lebanon Master Plan: 13/8)

My overall impression is that as written, the proposed regulations, rather than presenting NB as a potential option, instead would deter residents and their families from choosing NB.

Here are just a couple of examples of why I feel this way: Overall the proposed regulations make NB much more costly and complicated than conventional burial in Lebanon, but provide fewer services for those choosing this option. Most off-putting to me is the proposed requirement that families/agents maintain the burial plot. We all know that not everyone can count on family to assume this responsibility, nor does every resident have the means to secure an agent. Including this requirement raises the question of the very purpose of a municipal cemetery.

A second example: When I read about the requirements for containers, I asked Lyme-based coffin-maker, Michael Whitman for his reaction. His response:

"I cannot imagine how to build a box without any fasteners or glue...."

Lee Webster, a member of the Green Burial Council, said this about prohibiting the use of glue or fasteners: ".....it is completely unnecessary. The GBC recommends reducing but does not require eliminating."

Of course there are coffin-makers with exceptional joinery skills who could meet Lebanon's proposed standards but at quite an additional expense. My point is that the last thing I want in our community is to make NB an option reserved for residents who don't have to worry about cost. You have already received comments about other regulations which would have a similar effect, so I won't repeat them.

In closing, I want to share resources available to the Board as it considers revisions to the rough draft:

www.greenburialcouncil.org/our_standards.html

www.nhfuneral.org