

THOMASTON CEMETERY BOARD OF TRUSTEES (TCBT)
Thursday, Sep 25, 2025 - 4:00 P.M. Meeting
THOMASTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING - Select Board Room

Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm. Present: Chairman Ryan Fitzpatrick, Ron Gamage, Pete Lammert, Will Eustis and Peggy McCrea. Sue Christensen was excused.

Motion: Breen Amendment: Public Comments: Donna Godfrey opted to wait until the end of the meeting.

Motion: Minutes of the 28 Aug meeting were accepted as read. Ron/Peg 5/0

Motion: Corrections made as indicated in the minutes.

Project Updates:

MOCA¹ Membership: The Town Office suggested that a member of the Trustees provide an email address for correspondence, inquiries, billing, etc. Ryan will establish a specific address for that purpose.

Avenue Posts – Ryan has not received an updated report with mock-up but it should be available by the next meeting. He will forward any info he receives by email for review before the meeting. Adventure Advertising's quote for the sign repair is good to the end of the year.

Budget Review: A comparison of this year's budget to the 2024 budget is comparable, which raises the question of whether the budget surplus from last year was rolled into this year's budget. We have a reserve of \$1,000 but are still unsure of any rollover of a possible \$4,000. Ryan will verify.

Sexton Report: It has been a challenging year for the lawn mowing crew in that we transitioned from too much rain in the first few months to a drought in the latter months. The weedwhacking crew hired for the summer months were exceptional but a new hire had to be made once the summer crew had to go back to school in September. There were not many burials this last month. For the first time, there was a double cremains at 6 p.m., later than usual, but allowed for attendees to be in attendance after work hours. Notices will be posted about decorations being removed before winter. Pete picks up many of them since many lot owners are from out of town. Flags will be picked up on the weekend after Armistice Day on 11 Nov. by Galo and Frances Hernandez and the remaining Boy Scouts. Pete called on Public Works for assistance with their auger in helping digging a hole for cremains after encountering difficulty with a large rock.

Assistant Sexton: Ron hopes to clean more stones but did not have the time this year. Will offered to help. Peggy voiced concerns about using pressure washers as professionals do not approve.

Old Business: None

New Business: Will brought up the request that was brought before the Select Board members concerning the former Catholic Cemetery located on the former Dragon owned property on Old County Road. Ron mentioned that the subject had been discussed at the Thomaston Historical Society Meeting and that Ian Emmott, who is voicing concerns about some stone and bone removals, is in discussions with the Catholic Church. The cemetery is not owned by the town so we are not involved.

Peggy was contacted by Kendray, who is putting together a Fall Festival for the Town and requested a cemetery tour from the Trustees. In the interest of promoting the Cemetery Board of Trustees as a group, Peggy said she would be willing to write a script for Elm Grove Cemetery and requested guides.

Motion: Cemetery Board of Trustees agree to participate in giving a tour of the Elm Grove Cemetery during the Thomaston Fall Festival on Saturday, October 25th. Peggy/Ron 5/0
Ryan asked for confirmation of the time for perhaps two separate tours and a walk through prior to the date.

¹ MOCA – Maine Old Cemetery Association
1 of 2

Next meeting Thursday 23 Oct 2025 at 4 p.m.

Public Comments: Donna Godfrey handed out copies of a letter she obtained from the Historical Society regarding the Butler Cemetery deeds. She also gave a copy to Kara, who said she would look into it. Ryan was not on the Board when this incident happened but noted that the Board played no role in the letter that offended her. Ryan explained that the Town is now taking care of our obligation to the cemetery and will continue to do so.

Motion: Meeting adjourned 4:58 p.m. Peg/Ron 5/0

Submitted by Peggy McCrea, Secretary