



Redding Historic Cemetery Committee

A Committee of the Office of the Board of Selectmen

Minutes April 9th, 2026

Meeting called to order at 2:05 PM at the Town Hall Meeting Room. Committee Members Present: Joseph Bonomo, Sean McNamara, Louise Wagner.

Interested Parties: Robert Paradise

Minutes of January 8th, 2026 Meeting

Motion: *A motion to accept January 8, 2026 Minutes as published.*

Passed Unanimously

Current Status of FY 2026 Budget Balances. The OM Expiring Funds balance is \$3,034.26; this is before the expected receipt of \$8,000 from the cemetery maintenance program grant. The CAP-56 non-expiring funds remain at \$2,649.00. The request for \$25,000 for FY2027 is in process. Discussion ensued whether the expected grant funds should go into expiring or non-expiring funds, this must be decided by Mr. Jim Sanders, the Finance Director.

RHCC Grant Status. Discussion of use of grant funds to designate graves in OLD CEMETERY (Good Pasture Cemetery). Belgian Block of size 4"X6"X12" to be used at a price of approximately \$4.00 per block, ordered in a unit pack of 150 per pallet.

Motion: To approve the purchase of one pallet of Belgian Block, for a cost Not To Exceed (NTE) \$750.00.

Passed Unanimously

Civil War Veteran's Grave Marker Replacement. The grave marker has arrived and is stored at Sean McNamara's business, however, there is a research problem on whether

the grave in Lonetown Cemetery is the actual CPL Charles Thomas (29th Connecticut Regiment, USCT). The Town Historian, Mr. Bruce Nelson advised that the CPL Charles Thomas was born in Danbury and maybe buried somewhere in Danbury. He was wounded at the Battle of Killhouse, Virginia and was discharged from the Union Army Hospital there, and it is unknown if he made it back to Connecticut. Ms. Wagner has contacted the Danbury Historical Society (DHS) and the Friends of the Cemeteries to attempt to find a grave location. Sean McNamara will maintain the marker until this situation is clarified.

Isaac Hamilton Cemetery (aka Lonetown Cemetery). The old cyclone fence has been removed. Ms. Wagner indicated that grants may be available for cemetery signage. If so, this grant may be used for signage for other historic cemeteries in Redding. It has been suggested that Mr. Bruce Nelson be contacted to determine the proper name for these Redding Historic Cemeteries before application is made for these grants. Mr. Paradise, interested party, indicated that there are 4-inch-high spikes of re-bar in the cemetery, where the old cyclone fence was, these need to be cut down with a metal-cutting blade as they represent a danger to people who may go into the cemetery. A letter will be written to the First Selectman and the Highway Department Head requesting assistance in this matter.

Discussion also ensued about clean up and the planting of Andromeda (or other) bushes at this cemetery near the edges of the stone walls near the front of the cemetery. Mr. McNamara will look into the possibilities of soil build up and planting of appropriate plantings.

Celebration Plans for Veterans and the 250th Anniversary of the USA. Replacement of the CPL Thomas gravestone and events related thereto have been suspended until clarification of his remains are determined.

Mr. T. Kirk of the RHCC is working on plans for a memorial mural to honor member of the Redding Community who gave their lives in our Nation's wars. Mr. McNamara will contact Mr. Kirk for information on this project.

Other Items. Discussion ensued regarding the status of Marchant Cemetery; committee questioned as to actually owns the property, who is paying the taxes, if the taxes are being paid and if the Town has been spending financial resources on maintaining a cemetery that is on private property. Committee will check as to ownership and tax status. Is this property liable to "hostile take over" by the town. Do the owners or trustees, if determined, owe funds to the Town for the last 7 years of maintenance? Is a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) study of the land necessary to see if older, unmarked graves are present at the lower end of the property?

Discussion ensued on the status of current Redding war memorial plaques in and around the town, including the missing World War 2 memorial plaque at Redding Elementary School (RES) that disappeared during the addition and renovation process in the early 1970's

Next Meeting of the RHCC. Next regular meeting is scheduled for July 9th, 2026, at 2:00 PM in the Town Meeting Room.

Motion: *To Adjourn at 2:58 pm on APRIL 9th, 2026.*

Passed Unanimously

Submitted by:

Joseph R. Bonomo

Chair

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