

Essex Town Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2026

11:00am

Essex Town Clerk's Office

In attendance: Joe Teegarden, Sue Brown, Caroline Ashley, Adian Martin (support staff), Jenn Booker,

Not Present: Elizabeth King, Ever Moore

Public attendee: Francis Kinghorn

Agenda

- Call to Order at 11am
- Public Comment-none
- Approval of May 13, 2026, Minutes-Approved
- FY26 Revenue/Expense Summary -Joe Presented the '26 budget and the '27 budget beginning July 1.
 - Donations
 - Trustee
 - Trustee Interest
 - Plot sales
 - Expenses and Total
 - Voter Budget
- **Sexton Report** – Ever provided a written report with pictures of areas of concern to be addressed.
 - Burial Requests
- Maya Starr asked if it was possible to purchase a grave close to her family's plot located in Sterling. The family plot, which is home to the tall dove monument, is close to a couple plots that were never sold. I am asking the Cemetery Commission to vote on whether or not to allow Maya Starr to purchase the available space in Ave C, plot 94, grave A.
 - Request was approved by unanimous vote
- Francis Kinghorn requested to purchase a plot in Essex Common Burial Ground beside Henry Landon for her husband, John Kinghorn. Both John and Francis served on the Essex Cemetery

Commission in the early 2000's. John's best friend, Henry Landon, was buried in Essex Common Burial Ground in 2004. Both John and Henry were passionate about Essex history, which led to Henry being one of the last internments in ECBG. There is more than enough space for a second burial beside Henry.

- Francis was present to answer questions from the commission, Discussion took place regarding conformity of the stone, and request was approved by unanimous vote. Francis had to leave mid discussion so Jen will let Ever know.
- Cemetery Actions to Consider
 - **Stone Repair in ECBG**-meeting with VOCA at 6pm 6/24/26, Caroline to summarize meeting in an email to the commission
 - **Tree/Shrub/Stump Removal in MVC**-Phase 2 stump grinding and additional shrub removal, Joe will reach out to Ever to get an agreeable time for us to meet and mark items, Caroline will get quotes after this is done
 - **Dead Tree in ECBG/Unwieldy gate in ECBG**-Joe will contact DJ's, Barretts and Heritage and get quotes for dead tree to be discussed at July 8th meeting, this is an urgent need as the tree could cause damage to fence and vehicles etc. Gate was not discussed
 - **Crushed Fence in MVC**-Adrian contacted Harlan during the meeting and parks and rec can repair but no promise it will be soon, busy season is upon us.
 - **Stone cleaning**- will be discussed at a later date
- **Long Term Cemetery Actions** - Discussion
 - Repair of columbarium bench, hedge trimming and landscaping freshening was discussed, as well as stone cleaning. Caroline to get bids for landscaping in consideration that this may be a yearly maintenance thing we should put in the budget
- **Community Day**-commission agreed to staff a table Jen offered us use of her table
- Next Meeting: July 15, 2026 - 11:30am
- Adjourn 12:20