

DRAFT

RIDGEFIELD GRAVEYARD RESTORATION COMMITTEE

MAY 18, 2026 6 PM RIDGEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our Honorary Member, Joel Third, recently passed away. Several of our members gave tribute to his intelligence, kindness and thoughtfulness in helping our Committee and in being our friend.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Sara Champion, Kevin Claegens, Susan Kveskin, Susan Law, Nancy Selander, Sarah Slavin.

EXCUSED: Ian Dow, Michael Harrington, Tom McManus.

Chair Nancy Selander called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

MINUTES: Sarah Slavin moved to accept the March 16, 2026 Minutes as written. All approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tom provided a written handout.

LIAISON WITH THE SEXTONS: Bill Bunkoci, Mapleshade Cemetery, reported that several plots were in the process of possible sales.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Cemetery Signage. Kevin showed us a copy of the "add on" sign showing the Sexton's name and contact number for Ridgebury Cemetery. This would be hung from the bottom of the main cemetery sign.

Since there is no sign at the Branchville Cemetery, Nancy will inquire at Town Hall as to who makes the wooden signs that are used for the Town's Preserves. Hopefully a sign can be made similar to those at the existing larger Town cemeteries.

2. June 14<sup>th</sup> Open House, 11AM – 2PM at Branchville Cemetery. The purpose of this meeting is to help in creating some sort of list of plot owners as no written records have been located. Nancy reported on her efforts to contact the printed papers and the ongoing follow-up. Michael has been in touch with digital sources to advertise the event. A paper flyer is being created to post at various establishments that allow them. An overhead canopy and table will be brought in and our members will provide chairs. Kevin, Sara C., Ian, Nancy and Susan L. have agreed to attend.
3. Overseeing the pocket cemeteries. A printed map showing locations and brief descriptions of these small cemeteries were handed out. Kevin and Susan K. agreed to monitor the Selleck Cemetery as well as the large Ridgebury Cemetery. Sarah and Susan L. have been recording Branchville and now will keep an eye on the small Beers Cemetery. Nancy will monitor New Florida Cemetery. Sara, Ian and Michael will work out the oversight of the Davis, Seymour and Gamaliel Smith Cemeteries. The purpose of this project is to heighten an awareness of these out of the way cemeteries and to be aware of any issues that might require attention.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Memorial Day Parade. Nancy, Susan K., Susan L., and Tom will be marching on May 25<sup>th</sup>
2. Drainage issues at Ridgebury Cemetery. The recent announcement of major roadwork on Ridgebury Rd. brought back this issue which was discussed a number of years ago. Meanwhile, Tom Keane sexton at Ridgebury, has been able to create more saleable plots along the upper back wall of the problem area. After a brief discussion, the consensus was due to the extensive work and therefore cost involved, perhaps the best way is to plant a row of willow or other water soaking trees at the far right portion of the cemetery.

Sarah Slavin moved to adjourn the meeting and all approved.

Susan Law, Recorder

