



Town of Waterford
Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
01/17/2026

Meeting was called to order by Chair Howard Remick at 8:05 am. Commission members Kim Willey, Bob Cushing, and Shawn Hallisey were in attendance, along with Zoning Administrator Matt Walsh.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Approval of December 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes tabled until next meeting on 02/21/26.

Green Burials

- Information from the state is still coming in regarding regulations of green burials and it changes often. Chair Howard Remick explained that it was too early in the process to push for the issue to be included in this year's Town Meeting.
- ZA Matt Walsh shared information the state posted on their website. They are offering little guidance to town municipalities that are now responsible for governing green burials.
- Matt listed some recent updates made to green burial mandates listed in Vermont Statutes. One such update requires a waste water engineer to evaluate the area to decide where a secondary well and septic would go should they be needed.
- The Department of Environmental Conservation who work with wetlands seek to require wetland delineation for private property burials.
- Private property burials have to allow an easement to permit the immediate family of the buried deceased on the property. The easement has to be added to the deed.
- Green burials have parameters of what materials can be buried. Polyester clothing is not permitted, for example. Embalming requires additional parameters to be met.
- Town Clerk Deb Benoit confirmed that permits cost \$15 to file. The Commission members agree that the minimum \$15 charge for a Green Burial Permit is appropriate.
- Bob Cushing moved to use the document posted by the Town of St. Johnsbury about green burial information as a template to be fitted for the Town of Waterford. The document will include a notice of any pending state changes. Kim Willey seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.
- Matt will send an updated version of the document.
- The Cemetery Committee reported that there is a section of Riverside Cemetery that isn't suitable for lots. It may be suitable as a public green burial site.

Town Report

- Chair Howard Remick wrote a small synopsis for the Town Report. He brought up that the state's new development laws don't align with the Town's vision.
- They are still waiting on information from the NVDA for the Town Plan. Howard volunteered to check in with them.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Green Burial
- NVDA-Town Plan
- Wetland Maps

Adjourn

- Bob Cushing made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Shawn Hallisey, approved by acclamation of members present. Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 am.