

## **Carlisle Mosquito April 11, 2025; Letter to the editor**

### **Making the case for cemetery funding request**

To the Editor:

The Cemetery Task Force has finalized its report on the operations of Green Cemetery and would like to share its findings.

Within Green Cemetery's walls are notable town figures like Heald, Green, Parlin, Blood, and our own families. Our analysis shows we clearly have a problem in processing burials due to handwritten records with confusing notations, "master sheets" which sometimes show conflicting information, misaligned lots that cannot accommodate headstones, and hidden rock ledge that invalidates a potential grave. These compromise what should be an efficient process.

Cemetery software would alleviate the struggles we have with space allocation, enable us to accurately determine the cemetery's closing-date, and provide a succession plan for the next Cemetery Supervisor.

Jim Hall, Cemetery Supervisor, uses his personal knowledge to work through each case, but still requires a final probe with a metal rod to ensure all is clear of a shifted vault or rock ledge. The burial information is provided to Town Hall, to be transcribed onto index cards.

Many cemeteries use Cemetery Management Software (CMS) to update operations and digitally preserve historical records. CMS creates a detailed map of the cemetery, using records, GIS, ground penetrating radar, and drone scans. It will also aid in untangling the quirks and irregularities of the old ledgers and maps. Additionally, a hand-held version can be available for cellphones, providing location and grave information to both visitors and ground crews.

Cemetery software will allow us to better utilize the space we have now, and forecast any expansion if needed. Instead of a set of tattered ledgers, CMS will provide a succession plan for the next Cemetery Supervisor. Historical and new data will be maintained, enhanced, and augmented by a relational database and stored safely in the "cloud." The time of all involved, from Cemetery Supervisor to Town Hall personnel, will be better utilized.

Please support the Cemetery Improvement article at Town Meeting.

Gordon Means, Cemetery Task Force, Chair