

Maintenance of West Newbury's Historic Town-Owned Cemeteries

The Town of West Newbury owns two historic cemeteries. The Almshouse Cemetery, on Poorhouse Lane, was cleaned up in 2021 and given a historic marker. Information about its history is available [here](#). The Quaker Cemetery on Turkey Hill Road (whose history can be found [here](#)) was cleaned up by volunteers in 2010, but, like the Almshouse Cemetery, requires (as of 2023) a major clean up and ongoing maintenance.

On April 24, 2023, the Town voted to “to transfer and/or appropriate from available funds the sum of \$4,150.00 to fund the maintenance, clean up, and repair of the Town-owned cemeteries, or take any other action relative thereto”—with a sunset date of June 30, 2024. The [plan](#) is to contract to have such materials as brush, saplings, and downed limbs and trees removed from each cemetery twice yearly in spring and fall under the supervision of the Historical Commission.

Because it is adjacent to the Artichoke River and subject to wetlands protections, the cleanup of the Quaker Cemetery requires approval of the Town's Conservation Commission. In May of 2023, the Historical Commission submitted a [Request for Determination of Applicability](#) (RDA) to the Conservation Commission. On July 17, 2023, the Conservation Commission issued a [Negative Determination of Applicability](#), *which is good only for three years and thus must be renewed through another RDA submitted in the spring of 2026.*