

## Bristol Town Administrator

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**From:** Bristol Clerk  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2023 9:05 AM  
**To:** Bristol Town Administrator  
**Subject:** FW: Hardscrabble Cemetery

Here's the response from John Swepston for Hardscrabble Cemetery trees. Please add to SB Agenda.

Thanks.

Sharon Lucia  
Town Clerk  
Town of Bristol  
PO Box 249  
Bristol, VT 05443  
802.453.2410 x5  
clerk@bristolvt.org  
www.bristolvt.org

NOTE: We are now open to the public. Our new office hours are Monday – Thursday - 8 am to 4:30 pm. The office is CLOSED on Fridays. Appointments are still required for research in the Land Records.

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-----Original Message-----

From: swepston arbor works <swepstonarborworks@gmail.com>  
Sent: Sunday, February 19, 2023 6:12 PM  
To: Bristol Clerk <clerk@bristolvt.org>  
Subject: Re: Hardscrabble Cemetery

hi sharon.

sorry for the delay in getting back to you and the selectboard about the hardscrabble cemetery.

to be honest, the tree situation there is pretty grim. there are many very large trees surrounding the cemetery that are most likely at the later stages of life. this means they will become more prone to failure as time goes on. and there is no doubt that these trees will damage very old headstones. there are also some sizeable trees within the cemetery that are also aged and unstable, and could cause headstone damage. i am not sure if i have ever made this suggestion in my professional career as an arborist, but i think ALL the sizeable trees in and around the cemetery should be removed. there are some smallish trees and saplings that could be salvaged. but the large trees should be removed. the two black locusts that fell into the cemetery during the december storm most likely portend future failures and headstone damage.

this would be a costly endeavor. perhaps the town could pay to remove trees in stages, thus salvaging some of the budget for other trees in bristol. i could walk the cemetery again and come up with estimated pricing. we could also have sargeants and possibly browns do the same.

(i would not want to do the work; i would only provide what i think would be a fair price for removals).

sorry to be the barer of bad news! the silver lining is that trees would sprout up and grow around the cemetery with time. and smaller salvaged trees would take the place of the big ones we remove.

let me know your thoughts. if i need to attend a selectboard meeting, let me know and i'll pop in. enjoy your week!

john

On Mon, Feb 13, 2023 at 10:54 AM Bristol Clerk <clerk@bristolvt.org> wrote:

>  
> Any update?  
>  
> Thanks.  
>  
> Sharon Lucia  
> Town Clerk  
> Town of Bristol  
> PO Box 249  
> Bristol, VT 05443  
> 802.453.2410 x5  
> clerk@bristolvt.org  
> www.bristolvt.org  
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>  
> From: swepston arbor works <swepstonarborworks@gmail.com>  
> Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2023 4:09 PM  
> To: Bristol Clerk <clerk@bristolvt.org>  
> Subject: Re: Hardscrabble Cemetery  
>  
> ha! THAT cemetary! my kids go to red cedar! i'll give a look-see and get back in touch. thanks!

>  
> john

> On Thu, Jan 26, 2023 at 4:04 PM Bristol Clerk <clerk@bristolvt.org> wrote:

>  
> Hi John  
>  
> Its on Hardscrabble Road on the left just before Red Cedar School.

>  
> Thanks.

>  
> Sharon Lucia  
> Town Clerk  
> Town of Bristol  
> PO Box 249  
> Bristol, VT 05443  
> 802.453.2410 x5  
> clerk@bristolvt.org  
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>  
> From: swepston arbor works <swepstonarborworks@gmail.com>  
> Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2023 3:58 PM  
> To: Bristol Clerk <clerk@bristolvt.org>  
> Subject: Re: Hardscrabble Cemetery  
>  
> hi sharon.  
>  
> i'd love to look at the trees. i am embarrassed to ask, where is the cemetary exactly? thanks!  
>  
> john  
>  
> On Thu, Jan 26, 2023 at 11:28 AM Bristol Clerk <clerk@bristolvt.org> wrote:  
>  
> Hi John  
>  
> The Selectboard would like you to check out the trees at the Hardscrabble Cemetery. We had several come down and wanted you to determine if there are more that should be taken down as long as we are there cleaning up the ones already down.  
>  
> Let me know when you can do this and what you find.  
>  
> Thanks.  
>  
> Sharon Lucia  
> Town Clerk  
> Town of Bristol  
> PO Box 249  
> Bristol, VT 05443  
> 802.453.2410 x5  
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SAW - Swepston Arbor Works  
John Swepston, ISA Certified Arborist, NE6542A