



**Charles C. Cavalconte, M.Div., Chair**  
**The Commissioners of the Cemeteries**  
The North and East Burial Grounds Commission  
The Town of Bristol, Rhode Island

February 2, 2024

To the Honorable Town Clerk Cordeiro, Town Administrator Contente, The Honorable Members of the Town Council, fellow Commissioners of the Cemeteries, Superintendent Ramsay, Town Treasurer Hassell and Deputy Town Treasurer Carulli:

After 15 years of being Chair and a Member of the Cemetery Commission, and after much thought and reflection, I have decided to step aside and let the next generation take up the operation and strategic planning for the North and East Burial Grounds.

I would like the date of my resignation to be March 31, 2024. This will give you two months to find a replacement and to ensure a smooth leadership transition. I am happy to help the new chair get oriented to his/her position and provide an update on projects in progress, even should the transition period take a little longer than two months.

I am extremely grateful for having had the opportunity to have been of service to the Town. I am especially grateful for all the work we have been able to accomplish together as The Commission. The specific advances we made are highlighted on page 2 and 3 of this letter.

In closing, I again want to thank you for the opportunity to serve the Town of Bristol and for your support and assistance during my term as Chair.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles C. Cavalconte".

Charles C. Cavalconte, M.Div., Chair  
The Commissioners of the Cemeteries

2024 FEB -5 AM 8:15  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

These are many of the accomplishments, not in chronological order, we have made during my tenure, which I have either initiated, participated, supported or encouraged:

1. A new computer database system for the recording of our deceased.
2. New street and way fare signage.
3. Celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NBG April 2022.
4. The placement of pet management signs throughout NBG.
5. The maintenance and restoration of the Chapel at NBG including: painting of exterior wood, a new roof, the sealing of the chimney, and new LED lights at the Chapel doors.
6. New LED flood lights at the flag pole and Civil War Memorial statue.
7. Sourcing the proper Medal of Honor flag and the erection of the white and blue pole identifying the resting place of Pvt. Frank Walker, Bristol's MoH recipient.
8. The restoration of the Hope Street wall, with pending plans for its painting.
9. For several years supporting the Boy Scouts of Bristol who continued the tradition of whitewashing the Hope Street wall.
10. The planting of approximately 130 trees with signs identifying their proper biological names with appropriate leaf design.
11. Supported the writing of "Respecting the Gravitas of an Earlier Time: Landscaping (2016-2021) for North Burial Ground" by William Chittick, our volunteer tree specialist and tree landscape designer for the trees at NBG. His brochure guide contains photographs, descriptions and a tree map to the trees of NBG.
12. Pending plans for the planting of approximately 80 more trees.
13. The ongoing trimming and care of existing trees with the Commission's agreed "official" commitment to replace any lost trees due to disease, age or storm damage.
14. The actual physical planting, with other Commissioners, approximately 500, Daffodil bulbs.
15. The promotion of pollinator awareness with the "No Mow May" program at both NBG and EBG.
16. A new 25ft fiberglass flag pole at EBG with solar illumination;
17. New signate at EBG.
18. The acquisition and distribution of new RI State Historic Cemetery Commission signs to properly identify all 11 official burial grounds in Bristol.
19. The discovery and installation of the cemetery sign at the Byfield stone at Coggeshall farm.
20. Planning for the expansion and development of the westside of NBG for future in-ground burials.

21. The placement of property boundary signs identifying the location areas of Gate 5 and Gate 6 along the northern boundary of NBG's westside.
22. The discovery and restoration of the historic southwest and northwest boundary markers, noting the legal property line of westside of NBG.
23. The installation of a monument and the legal recognition and correction of the property line at the NW corner of NBG.
24. Encouraged the initial dialogue for the design to expand the Cremation Garden.
25. Signage at the gates to NBG with a new rock at Gate 4 and the re-inking of the existing gate stones at Gates 1 and 3.
26. Restoration of Gate 1's twisted metal gate panel.
27. The restoration of portions of the perimeter stone wall.
28. Supervised the needed repair to the bases of the fence posts of the DAR's gift iron fence at EBG.
29. Supervised the dedication of Peter's Pond at the Cremation Garden and the purchase of the park bench.
30. Supported several Boy Scout Eagle Projects at NBG, especially documenting veterans buried at NBG;
31. Requested and encouraged the restoration of fallen 19<sup>th</sup> century headstones at NBG
32. Providing support. for a community service project painting the two civil war era mortars near the main entrance flag pole.
33. Providing support to several community service projects conducted by the students of Roger Williams University: a) Painting the DAR iron fence at EBG on several occasions, b) the cleaning of historic headstones at NBG, 3) the initial cleaning and removal of inorganic material from the westside of NBG as the first phase of preparation for the development and transformation of the Westside from forest to burial space.
34. Encouraged and supported several guided tours sponsored by the Bristol Historic and Perseveration Society at NBG noting historic headstones and personalities.
35. Encouraged and supported several guided tree tours in NBG.
36. Facilitated, in relation with Bristol's DPW and their contract engineers, the repaving of the majority of the streets in North Burial Ground.
37. Most importantly throughout, how we have responded to the responsibility to bury, care and respect the mortal remains of hundreds of individuals while also caring for their grieving families. I feel we certainly have made a tremendous contribution to the cemeteries and the Town of Bristol.