

APRIL 28, 2025

My name is Lynn Marie Warman, and I am from Unity, Maine. I have been involved with the Unity Cemetery Committee for over a decade, making sure the gravestones are clean, the veteran flags are straight, and the area is a beautiful spot for families to come and remember their loved ones. I have seen to the repair of many old gravestones over the years, as well as the placement of new veteran stones. I am also a member of The Maine Old Cemetery Association.

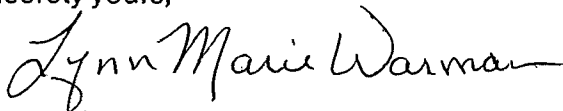
In the past few years, our town's cemetery mowing contract had been awarded to a man who was also elected selectman. In 2023, a woman in our town visited her husband's gravesite and found severe, fresh mower damage to his family's gravestone. The stone was chipped, tire marks and scrapes were fresh, and his flag standard was destroyed. It was clear that the damages were done during the last mowing, by the mower blades. She called the mower, and he got very angry at her; but he did take the gravestone to a stone cutter to get both sides freshly cut to remove the chips on the edges.

The cemetery committee tried to address their concerns about mower damages, but that selectman/mower started attending their meetings, harassing and threatening the members. He also threatened to sue the town for defamation. Our cemeteries now have severe mower damage. Thirty-nine damaged gravestones in Pond Two Cemetery alone!

Our selectmen have stuck together on this issue, claiming that there is no "proof" of who or what did the damage, even though The Maine Old Cemetery Association looked at pictures of the stones and confirmed that the damages were done by a zero turn lawnmower. We all know that those damages were not there a few years ago. In fact, in 2013 a stone was replaced because it had a chip, and now that same stone has more damage than it did before replacing! The other two selectmen refused to hold him accountable, and they have refused to believe their own cemetery committee. Many have now quit the committee. Members and citizens see the fresh damages to our cemeteries and are saddened by them.

Please make the proposed changes called for in LD 1560, an Act to Address Conflicts of Interest within Municipal Contracts, so that this cannot happen again. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address this problem.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynn Marie Warman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Lynn Marie Warman

237 Bailey Road, Unity, Maine 04988