Tree Cemetery Project Narrative and Description of Proposed Work

Project Overview

The purpose of this proposal is to establish a natural tree cemetery and conservation-based burial ground utilizing the properties located at 129 Haverhill Road, 131A Haverhill Road, and 135 Haverhill Road. The project is intended to preserve the natural character of the land while creating a long-term, environmentally focused cemetery that emphasizes woodland stewardship, habitat preservation, and natural burial practices.

The project is currently in the planning and permitting phase. No additional site disturbance is proposed until the Planning Board and applicable City departments have reviewed the project and provided guidance regarding zoning, permitting requirements, and any necessary ordinance amendments.

Parcel Descriptions and Intended Use

129 Haverhill Road

The primary function of 129 Haverhill Road is to provide road frontage access to the project. This parcel will serve as the entrance corridor connecting Haverhill Road to the interior portions of the property.

Proposed improvements include:

- Expansion and improvement of the existing entrance area to provide safer ingress and egress from Haverhill Road.
- Construction of a compliant commercial entrance and driveway meeting standards required by the City and applicable regulations.
- Maintenance of vegetation and landscaping necessary to maintain visibility and safe access.

No burial activity is proposed on this parcel.

131A Haverhill Road

131A Haverhill Road is proposed to be the primary location of the tree cemetery and natural burial grounds.

Long-term plans for this parcel include:

- Development of designated woodland burial areas.
- Preservation of existing forest resources wherever possible.
- Construction of internal access roads and trails needed for visitors, maintenance, and emergency access.
- Establishment of conservation areas and protected buffer zones.
- Ongoing forest management and invasive species control.

At the present time, work on this parcel is limited to the removal of previously fallen, dead, hazardous, or rotting trees and the management of overgrowth resulting from approximately 30 years of accumulated forestry debris.

A preliminary path has been cleared to identify the general location of a future roadway. This path was utilized during the site visit and is not intended as a finished roadway.

135 Haverhill Road

135 Haverhill Road is proposed to serve as the operational and administrative center of the project.

Long-term plans include:

- Main office and visitor reception area.
- Administrative functions associated with cemetery operations.
- Additional parking for visitors and staff.
- Future support facilities associated with maintenance and management of the cemetery grounds.

No significant expansion of the existing developed footprint is proposed without further review and permitting.

Proposed Access Road Improvements

A principal component of the project is the construction of an approximately 24-foot-wide access road extending through areas identified as 305B and 305C.

The road is intended to:

- Provide safe vehicular access throughout the property.
- Accommodate emergency vehicles.
- Support visitor access.
- Provide maintenance access for cemetery operations.

The roadway is proposed to loop around the existing 100-foot buffer area and reconnect with the primary access road, creating a continuous circulation route.

The final design will be developed in consultation with the Planning Board, City staff, and project engineers to determine whether a gravel or paved commercial roadway is required to meet applicable standards.

Environmental Review and Resource Protection

Prior to further construction activity, the project proposes the completion of:

- Stormwater management studies.
- Drainage and flood analysis.
- Wetland and buffer review, as required.
- Invasive species management planning.
- Procedures for the identification, removal, transportation, and disposal of invasive plant species.

The intent is to minimize impacts to existing natural resources while restoring and maintaining the long-term health of the woodland environment.

Retaining Wall and Future Equipment Area

Within area 305C, a retaining wall is proposed to create a stable area for future parking and operational support facilities.

The current concept includes either:

- One retaining wall approximately 75 feet in length and 8 feet in height; or
- Two retaining walls approximately 4 feet in height separated by approximately 10 feet.

The final design will be determined through engineering review and permitting

requirements.
This area may ultimately support:

- Equipment storage.
- Maintenance operations.
- Future construction of a barn or similar structure necessary for the stewardship and upkeep of the property.

Engineering and Permitting

We seek authorization to proceed with additional design and engineering work through Level Design Group.
This work may include:

- Site design.
- Civil engineering.
- Traffic study survey
- Stormwater design.
- Surveying.
- Environmental assessments.
- Permitting documentation.
- Additional studies identified during the municipal review process.

These efforts are necessary to produce a complete site plan and supporting materials for future review.

Cemetery Operations and Pre-Sales

As part of the long-term development of the project, the applicant seeks the ability to begin marketing and pre-selling burial plots to early supporters, investors, and future plot holders once the appropriate approvals have been obtained.
No burial activity would occur until all required zoning, permitting, and regulatory approvals have been secured.

Current Status

At present, all major construction activity is paused pending review by the Planning Board and applicable City departments.
Current activities are limited to:

- Removal of dead, fallen, hazardous, and rotting trees.
- Management of excessive brush and overgrowth.
- General property maintenance.
- Environmental stewardship activities intended to improve forest health and safety.

No additional land disturbance is proposed until the necessary approvals and permits have been obtained.
The applicant respectfully requests guidance regarding zoning compliance, ordinance requirements, and the next steps necessary to advance the project through the municipal review process.

Thank You
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