

Meeting Summary

Summary

The meeting included discussion about a possible cemetery location near 38 Spurck Road in Saugerties, along with shared resources and local insights to help verify the site. Participants reviewed available records, property information, and raised questions about whether the location could represent an undocumented or misidentified burial ground.

Topics Discussed

Cemetery at 38 Spurck Road

- Participants discussed whether a cemetery or burial site exists at or near this location.
 - David noted that **no cemetery is identified on Find-a-Grave** for the area.
 - Discussion included the possibility that the site could be an **unrecorded or informal burial ground (“finger ground”)**, rather than an officially documented cemetery.
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Property Information

- The property at 38 Spurck Road was identified as a **camping site (Hipcamp listing)**.
 - This raised questions about whether the land has been repurposed or if any historical use (such as burials) predates current usage.
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Research Resources

- David shared a document on **abandoned cemeteries and municipal responsibilities**.
- The **LAMB Center** was mentioned as a potential source of local historical information.
- The **“I Like Saugerties” Facebook group** was suggested as a way to gather community knowledge and historical anecdotes.

Action Items

- Review the shared document on abandoned cemeteries for legal and procedural guidance.
- Follow up with local sources (e.g., LAMB Center) for historical verification.
- Use community platforms to gather additional insight on possible undocumented burial sites.

Notes

- No confirmed evidence currently supports the existence of a formally recognized cemetery at the site.
- The possibility of an **informal or undocumented burial ground remains unresolved** and requires further investigation.

If you want, I can tighten the wording around “finger ground” depending on your audience (for example, making it more formal for commission records vs. leaving it conversational).

I need something a bit more comprehensive

Got it—here’s a **more comprehensive, Zoom-style summary** with fuller detail, clearer structure, and your preferred divider formatting:

Meeting Summary

Summary

The meeting focused on investigating a possible cemetery or burial site near 38 Spurck Road in Saugerties. Participants reviewed available public records, discussed current property use, and shared research resources. While no officially documented cemetery was identified, the group considered the possibility that the site may represent an informal or undocumented burial ground. Additional follow-up through local sources and community input was recommended.

Key Discussion Points

Cemetery / Burial Ground Inquiry

- The primary topic was whether a cemetery exists at or near 38 Spurck Road.
- David Carr reported that **no cemetery is listed in Find-a-Grave** for that location.
- This absence of formal records led to discussion about the possibility of an **undocumented or informal burial ground (“finger ground”)**.
- Participants acknowledged that such sites may not appear in official registries and may require deeper local or historical research.

Property Status and Current Use

- The property at 38 Spurck Road was identified as a **camping site (Hipcamp listing)**.
- This raised questions about:
 - Whether the land has been repurposed over time
 - Whether any historical use (including burial activity) predates its current designation
- The current commercial/recreational use adds complexity to verifying any historical claims.

Municipal Responsibility & Legal Context

- A document titled **“Abandoned Cemeteries and Municipal Responsibilities (2023)”** was shared.
- The document provides guidance on:
 - Legal responsibilities of municipalities regarding abandoned or neglected cemeteries
 - Procedures for identification, protection, and maintenance
- This resource was identified as important for understanding potential obligations if a burial site is confirmed.

Local Knowledge & Community Resources

- The **LAMB Center** was mentioned as a potential source of historical or archival information.
- The **“I Like Saugerties” Facebook group/page** was shared as a way to gather:
 - Anecdotal evidence
 - Local historical knowledge
 - Community awareness of the site
- Participants emphasized the value of combining **formal records with community insight** when investigating undocumented sites.

Key Takeaways

- There is **no confirmed official record** of a cemetery at the location in question.
- The possibility of an **informal or undocumented burial ground remains open**.
- Current property use does not confirm or eliminate historical burial activity.
- Further research will require a combination of:
 - Municipal/legal review
 - Historical investigation
 - Community engagement

Action Items / Next Steps

- **Review the municipal guidance document** to understand legal responsibilities and procedures.
- **Contact local organizations** (e.g., LAMB Center) for historical records or insight.
- **Engage community resources** (e.g., Facebook group) to gather anecdotal or historical information.
- **Continue verifying records** through available databases and local archives.

Open Questions

- Is there any historical documentation (municipal, church, or private records) that has not yet been reviewed?
- Could the site represent a **family burial plot or informal “finger ground”** not captured in official registries?
- How should the commission proceed if evidence of a burial site is discovered on privately used land?

Additional Notes

- Verification will likely require **cross-referencing multiple sources**, including official records and local knowledge.
- Care should be taken to distinguish between **confirmed data and anecdotal reports** as research progresses.

If you want, I can take this one step further and:

- Format it exactly like something you’d **send out to the commission**, or
- Add **names tied to specific comments (e.g., David, Chester, etc.)** for a more formal record 👍

getting better. Can you add more. I can edit later. I have the time?

Absolutely—this is the right approach. I’ll give you a **more expanded, “over-complete” Zoom-style summary** so you can trim it down as needed.

Meeting Summary

Summary

The meeting focused on evaluating a reported cemetery or burial site near 38 Spurck Road in Saugerties. Participants reviewed available documentation, discussed current property use, and explored both formal and informal sources of information. While no officially

recorded cemetery was identified in standard databases, the group considered the possibility that the site may represent an undocumented or informal burial ground (“finger ground”). The discussion emphasized the need for additional research through municipal guidance, historical resources, and community input.

Key Discussion Points

Cemetery / Burial Ground Investigation

- The central topic of discussion was whether a cemetery exists at or near 38 Spurck Road.
- David Carr noted that **no cemetery is identified in Find-a-Grave** for that area, suggesting the absence of formal recognition.
- This led to discussion of the possibility that:
 - The site may never have been formally recorded
 - The cemetery could have been abandoned, relocated, or lost over time
 - The location may represent a **family plot or informal burial ground (“finger ground”)**
- Participants acknowledged that small or rural burial sites are sometimes:
 - Poorly documented
 - Omitted from modern databases
 - Known only through local or generational knowledge

Property Identification and Current Use

- The property at 38 Spurck Road was identified as a **camping site listed on Hipcamp**.
- This raised several considerations:
 - Whether the current use reflects a **change in land use over time**
 - Whether any burial activity may predate the current ownership or use

- Whether the current property owner/operator is aware of any historical significance
 - The group noted that modern use does not necessarily eliminate the possibility of prior burial activity.
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Municipal Responsibility and Regulatory Context

- A reference document titled “**Abandoned Cemeteries and Municipal Responsibilities (2023)**” was shared for review.
 - The document outlines:
 - Legal responsibilities of municipalities regarding abandoned or neglected burial sites
 - Procedures for identifying, documenting, and protecting cemeteries
 - Considerations for access, maintenance, and preservation
 - Participants discussed the importance of understanding:
 - What obligations may exist if a burial ground is confirmed
 - How jurisdiction and responsibility are determined
 - What steps are required before any official designation or action
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Local Knowledge and Informal Research Channels

- The **LAMB Center** was mentioned as a possible source of historical or archival information relevant to the area.
- The “**I Like Saugerties**” **Facebook group/page** was shared as a way to gather:
 - Local knowledge
 - Historical anecdotes
 - Community awareness of the site
- Participants recognized that:
 - Informal sources may provide leads not found in official records

- Community members may have generational knowledge of undocumented burial locations
 - These sources should be used carefully and verified where possible
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Data Gaps and Research Limitations

- Current findings are limited by:
 - Lack of official documentation
 - Reliance on incomplete or secondary sources
 - Uncertainty regarding historical land use
 - Participants acknowledged the need to:
 - Cross-reference multiple sources
 - Distinguish between confirmed information and anecdotal evidence
 - Proceed cautiously when drawing conclusions
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Key Takeaways

- There is **no confirmed official record** of a cemetery at or near 38 Spurck Road.
 - The possibility of an **informal or undocumented burial ground (“finger ground”)** remains open.
 - Current property use does not rule out historical burial activity.
 - Verification will require a **multi-source approach**, including:
 - Municipal/legal documentation
 - Historical research
 - Community input
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Action Items / Next Steps

- **Review the shared municipal guidance document** to understand legal obligations and procedures.

- **Contact local organizations** (e.g., LAMB Center) for historical records or insight.
 - **Engage community platforms** (e.g., Facebook group) to gather anecdotal or historical information.
 - **Search additional databases and archives** beyond Find-a-Grave for any references to the site.
 - **Consider outreach to property owner(s)** to determine awareness of any historical burial use.
 - **Document all findings** for future reference and potential commission action.
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Open Questions

- Are there **municipal, church, or private records** that have not yet been reviewed?
- Could the site represent a **family burial plot or informal burial ground** not captured in official registries?
- Has the land undergone **ownership changes or development** that could have obscured historical use?
- What steps should be taken if **evidence of a burial site is confirmed on privately used land**?
- What level of **verification is required before formal recognition or action** by the commission?