**Wallingford cemetery group awaits funding for garage**

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By Eric Vo Record-Journal staff

WALLINGFORD — While the Center Street Cemetery Association prepares for another presentation to the Town Council, State Reps. Mary Mushinsky and Mary Fritz are hoping the state bond commission will approve $275,000 for the association’s plan to build a garage to store equipment.

Last year, the town purchased two houses adjacent to the cemetery for future use. The association proposes to demolish the houses at 58 and 60 Prince St. for the garage, which would include an office, meeting room and bathroom.

Plans call for a building, styled after a Victorian barn, that would store cemetery equipment, including a backhoe. According to Mushinsky, the building would be 62 feet long, 30 feet wide and 12 feet in height.

Architect Steve Lazarus, a member of the Center Street Cemetery Association, said Friday that he was asked to attend a July Town Council meeting to talk about the garage plans. It is up to cemetery association officials to decide whether to ask the council for funds for the garage, he said.

Center Street Cemetery Association President Peter Gouveia couldn’t be reached for comment Friday.

Mushinsky and Fritz were able to get legislative approval for the $275,000. The bond commission, headed by the governor, must still vote to release the funds.

“It’s a two-step process,” Mushinsky said. “You have to get legislative approval, which we did. The second step is the spigot of the whole system ... There are many, many projects waiting in line to go through the commission.”

It’s not the first time the town has waited in line for approval from the bond commission.

Fritz and Mushinsky were able to get legislative approval for a bond of up to $525,000 to use for maintenance in the school system. The money was originally authorized by the legislature in 2005 to use at Sheehan High School, but the bond commission never approved it so the school system didn’t receive the money.

Last year, the language was changed to allow the funds to be used in the school system.

Mushinsky and Fritz were optimistic about approval of funds for the cemetery.

“I determined that there have been three other historic cemeteries that at one time or another got bond money,” Mushinsky said.

“We’re on good standing. If we were the first one in and a commission had never released money for a cemetery, I’d be nervous.”

Fritz added that she didn’t think the commission would take long to make a decision.

“We need to get that shovel in the ground and a place to store equipment and (the cemetery association) just can’t do it right now with that set up,” she said.

Mushinsky said the association deserves state help.

“It’s a very (expensive) project — probably more than this little association can deal with,” she said. “And it’s a historically significant cemetery.”

#### Originally found at [Wallingford cemetery group awaits funding for garage](http://www.myrecordjournal.com/wallingford/wallingfordnews/4885056-129/wallingford-cemetery-group-awaits-funding-for-garage.html)