



Deborah Jean Rose  
Kathleen Bird

## TOWN OF WAREHAM

### Cemetery Commissioners

95 Charge Pond Road  
Wareham, Massachusetts 02571  
(508) 295-5300 Fax: (508) 295-6391

### CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS

### MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Thursday, April 20, 2017

Location: 8:00 A.M. – MMD, 95 Charge Pond Road Wareham, MA 02571

Attendance:

Commissioners:	Deborah Jean Rose	Present
	Kathleen Bird	Present
	Jack M. Silva	Present
Liaison officer:	Judith Whiteside, Selectman	Present
	David Menard, Director	Present
	Deborah J. Berchtold, Administrative Assistant	Present
Guest:	Tom Daley, Cemetery Helpful Solutions	Present

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The meeting was called to order at 8:02 A.M.

Items 4-7 listed on April's agenda were taken out of order to allow Tom Daley of Cemetery Helpful Solutions to begin his presentation. Voted 3-0-0

Below is a list of items that were presented and discussed by Tom Daley and the Cemetery Commissioners.

- Must abide by Rules and Regulations that were approved at Town Meeting in 1986. The Rules and Regulations need only to be presented to the Board of Selectmen for approval, once they approved by the Cemetery Commissioners.
- Rules and Regulations should be revised and changed from a deed to a license of burial. It should no longer be classified as a deed because they only have the right of burial and do not own the land.
- Veteran's flags and U.S. flag may remain on the grave for three days, Memorial Day and two days after.
- It is against the law to bury pets in the cemetery. The Town can only bury human remains.
- Should the Town acquire any more land, it needs to go through the hearing process and abide by Massachusetts Law 114. Board of Health needs to approve the acquisition.
- Cemetery Commissioners agreed they need professional direction to assist with the Rules and Regulations, as well as the license (deed).
- Cemetery Department still requires hard copies of records besides being inserted into the computer.
- License (Deed) shouldn't have two names listed on it (deed) due to blood line tracking. Under Massachusetts Law Chapter 114, a spouse has the same right of ownership and is protected under this law.



- The interment application should be signed by all children who have the right of burial besides the spouse. There should be an agreement with all parties involved in the burial.
- Question arose whether or not new rules for the cemetery could be made. They can, but, they need to be enforceable. For instance if MMD states all decorations will be removed, can this be done. It would be the same if there was a rule of "No Dogs Allowed", can it be enforced?
- Commissioners have the right to change the cost of a foundation pad. Average cost of a foundation pad is \$200.00 per square foot and Wareham only charges \$50.00 per square foot.
- Consideration should be made for an additional perpetual care fee when there a burial of an heir vs. the original perpetual annual fee.
- Should only Wareham residents be allowed to be buried in Wareham cemeteries? May need to perform a background check and research the resident.
- Idea to allow two human cremains in a single grave (not three) making it easier to establish monument engravings and to establish additional burial rights.
- What is the actual cost to operate the Wareham cemeteries? Suggestion of a grave fund was made. This would enable the cemeteries to be self-sufficient and to have a reserve fund for new grave sales. The Town needs to figure out a way to establish more funds for the operation of the cemeteries, other than just the interest of perpetual care and the sale of lots and graves. There needs to be a better way of accessing cemetery funds.

Accepted minutes of last month's meeting with a correction. Miranda vote should have been 2-0-1, not 2-1-0.

Request to transfer the deed of Taber to Strawn was tabled 3-0-0. Who is Rogers? Did he sell ½ lot to Taber and is Taber, Strawn's grandfather.

Request to transfer the deed of Baxter to Maxim was tabled 3-0-0. Is Elizabeth the only living child?

Request to transfer the deeds of Bodfish to Mawn was tabled 3-0-0. Did David have any children?

Request of Griffith marker was tabled 3-0-0. Needs authorized signature and mickey mouse (due to copyright infringements) is not allowed on the stone.

Request of Danserau was tabled 3-0-0. Needs to have a signature on the schematic and the question arose as to the placement of the four foot markers.

The Miranda foundation was tabled 2-0-1. J. Silva excused himself from the discussion. Need to have a required signature and exact location of foundation pad.

The Lacasse foundation was tabled 3-0-0. Needs to have a signature on the schematic.

Request for Jensen's flat markers was tabled 3-0-0. No signature on the schematic.

Other Cemetery Business: None

Meeting Adjourned 11:10 A.M.

Next meeting to be Thursday, May 18, 2017 at 8:00 A.M

