



Jack M. Silva  
Kathleen Bird  
Susan Akins

## 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, November 21, 2019  
Location: 8:00 A.M. – MMD, 95 Charge Pond Road, Wareham, MA 02571

Roll Call:

Commissioners:	Jack M. Silva, Chairman	Present
	Kathleen Bird, Clerk	Present
	Susan Akins	Absent
Liaison officer:	Alan Slavin	Absent
Ex Officio:	David Menard, Director	Absent

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The meeting was called to order at 8:13 and roll call was taken with Ms. Akins and Mr. Menard absent for the meeting. Tom Daly of Cemetery Helpful Solutions was requested to attend the meeting so the Commissioners could ask questions pertaining to cemetery protocol.

The minutes of October 23, 2019 were read and approved: 2-0-0

Three licenses reviewed and approved 2-0-0.

Agawam Cemetery, Lot 352 grave 4

Agawam Cemetery, Lot 354 graves 1 & 2

Centre Annex, Lot 289 grave 1

#### Director's Report:

Although the Director of Municipal Maintenance was absent for the meeting, he did leave a Director's report which stated that there was one full burial from October 23, 2019 thru November 21, 2019. He approved three headstones and one flat marker which will be installed in the cemeteries and has begun some fall cleanup within the cemeteries.

#### Old Business:

The finances for the cemeteries were presented and discussed with Tom Daly, Cemetery Helpful Solutions. It was learned that Mr. Foster, Financial Director, could produce a financial report which will list both the Cemetery perpetual care principal (listed as NET Cemetery Perpetual Care) and perpetual care interest (listed as ET Cemetery Perpetual Care) funds. A new spreadsheet will be created to list all of the available funds in all of the cemetery accounts.

On November 25, 2019, a letter was mailed to Katherine Weiss, as well as, a copy to Barnicoat Monuments informing her that questions needed to be answered pertaining to a marker request for Erika Weiss. Ms. Weiss will also have to re-submit a revised schematic to the Cemetery Commissioners for approval, if a response or a revised schematic is not received within a reasonable amount of time, her request will be removed from any future agendas (see attached letter).

#### New Business:

The Cemetery Commissioners requested to have Tom Daly, Cemetery Helpful Solutions, attend this meeting to seek professional consultation to several questions they have relative to the Town cemeteries. The Cemetery Commissioners asked if there are specific policies that need to be created, siting one concerning residency issues. He stated the Commissioners should review the rules and regulations and determine which policies need to be enforced and begin from there.

The Commissioners also asked about the procedure for reclaiming cemetery graves that have not been used in 75 years. Mr. Daly referred to Mass Law Chapter 114 and cited sections 10A, 31 and 27 when he began to explain the procedure. First, information needs to be gathered on the lots and graves in question and then they need to be researched and surveyed to determine who is the lot owner or heir, who is buried in the grave/graves, and if the lot and/or grave has not been used in over 75 years.

Due diligence needs to be shown to determine that a grave is in fact empty by either using a probe or by radar penetration.

A public notice needs to be put into place, three times, requesting any heir/heirs to the lots to step forward to claim the lot and graves being referenced. Documentation will need to be provided proving they are heirs to the lot in question.

Mr. Daly also mentioned that specific policies may want to be laid in place specifically for these older graves. New fees might like to be charged when the re-claimed graves are sold, specifically for perpetual care. Years ago, an annual fee was charged, but these charges are nothing compared to the cost it takes now to maintain a grave.

Perhaps a particular price should be set in place for any grave opening of the older graves. Due to the ascetics of the older section and the logistics, as well as, determining the equipment required to open the grave, this now creates an increase in costs for additional time and labor.

Mr. Daly also presented the Commissioners with a dis-internment application the town of Wareham would be able to use for any future dis-internments. Voted 2-0-0

The second invoice from Cemetery Helpful Solutions was reviewed, signed and given to the Municipal Maintenance Department to process (attached) a payment for \$1,125.00.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

Next meeting will be on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at the MMD office.