



Kathleen Bird
Susan Akins

TOWN OF WAREHAM

Cemetery Commissioners

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CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Location: 2:15 P.M. – MMD, 95 Charge Pond Road, Wareham, MA 02571

Roll Call:

Commissioners:

Kathleen Bird, Chairman	Present
Susan Akins, Clerk	Present
Jack Silva	Present

Liaison officer:	Judith Whiteside	Absent
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Ex Officio:	David Menard, Director	Present
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Guest:	Joe Barnicoat	Present
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The meeting was called to order at 2:15 P.M.

The minutes of July 19, 2023 were read and approved 3-0-0.

There were two licenses which were reviewed and voted 3-0-0.

Gregory A. Jones	Agawam	Lot: 364	Grave: 1&2
Janelle M. Carlson	Centre Annex	Lot: 290	Grave: 3

There were five markers which were reviewed and voted 3-0-0.

June Bryant	Agawam Annex	Lot: 22	Grave: 2
Jean MacIntosh McCann	Agawam Annex	Lot: 1	Grave: 5
Eion T. Gordon	Agawam Annex	Lot: 47	Grave: 2
Tobey Alford	Centre Annex	Lot: 278	Grave: 8
Wayne Morrison	Centre Cemetery	Lot: 623	Grave: 4

There were three monuments that were reviewed and approved 3-0-0

David & Gloria Pierce	Agawam Annex	Lot: 232	Grave: 1&2
Sharon Lynn Elias	Agawam Cemetery	Lot: 363	Grave: 4
Jeanne M. West	Centre Annex	Lot: 174	Grave: 7&8

Director's Report:

Mr. David Menard stated that there were twelve (12) burials between the months of July 20, 2023 and October 18, 2023. Of those twelve (12) burials, four (4) were full burials and eight (8) were cremations.

Mr. Menard then acknowledged the Agawam Cemetery expansion is almost completely done with just a few finishing touches remaining which includes putting grass seed down.

Old Business:

The stages for lots not used after 75 years has officially begun. Kathy Bird will collect the paperwork that has been gathered that identify the lots that have not been used in 75+ years in Centre Cemetery. It was a mutual decision the ancient section of the Agawam Cemetery will not be addressed due to the nature of the land in that area. Although some of the purchaser information on the lots are difficult to identify, the commissioners and municipal maintenance department will do their due diligence to find the last known address and send certified letters as well as put the information we do have in the local paper. Prior Town Reports will also be utilized to narrow down this information.

Protocol for unclaimed remains is still in discussion. Procedure to be put in place. Committee is dedicated to finding and using as many resources as possible to handle this in the best possible manner.

John Vozzella of Vozzella Granite Industries submitted an overview with the monument repairs that were completed in the Centre Cemetery. The committee as well as David Menard was extremely pleased by the work that has been done. The committee reviewed, agreed and voted 3-0-0 for this work to be paid out of the cemetery perpetual care funds. The invoice approved to be paid was in the amount of \$2,410.00. The committee also approved any future work by John Vozzella and improvements of the cemeteries to be paid out of the available cemetery funds in perpetual care.

Other items discussed in this meeting include a new mower with the device parts kit and artificial grass that is used during burials. The committee reviewed, voted and approved these purchases be paid out of the available cemetery funds from perpetual care. The total for the mower came to \$9,839.00. The parts kit at \$895.00 and the artificial grasses at \$773.14. A second mower was requested to replace the other existing mower. The municipal maintenance department currently

has two mowers that maintain over 30 acres of cemetery land. With both mowers being on their way out after many years of use, it has been requested both mowers be replaced at this time. The Commissioners have reviewed, agreed and voted 3-0-0 that the second mower will also be paid from the cemetery perpetual care available funds. The total for the second mower came to \$13,603.00 which includes the maintenance parts kit.

At this time, the cemetery commission have motioned to approve the flat marker only regulation in the center section of Agawam Cemetery on the condition when lots are purchased moving forward, the purchaser is informed of this regulation and given the option to purchase in another area of the cemetery where they have other options for monuments that follow what is outlined in the cemetery rules and regulations handbook.

New Business:

Joe Barnicoat from Barnicoat Monuments in Wareham joined us for the October 18, 2023 meeting. Joe presented a monument that he planned to place over two graves in the single section of Centre. This monument can also be described as a bench with measurements at 48" long, 16" wide and 40" tall. This monument exceeds the cemetery monument regulations by an extra foot. The cemetery commissioners will follow up with Joe on their final decision at a later date.

It then became a topic of conversation if monuments should be placed on graves before remains are interred. David Menard made the point that if a monument is placed before remains are interred, when it comes time to perform a burial there is a greater chance of the monument being damaged preparing the grave. The committee came to the decision that they will allow flat markers be placed before remains are interred and monuments will be approved on a case by case basis.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 P.M.

The next scheduled meeting is set for Wednesday, January 17, 2023 at 2:15 P.M.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Bish". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'K' and a stylized 'B'.

