



Kathleen Bird  
Jack Silva

## 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, May 16, 2019

Location: 8:00 A.M. – Memorial Town Hall 54 Marion Road, Wareham, MA 02571

#### Roll Call:

Commissioners:	Kathleen Bird, Chairman	Present
	Jack M. Silva, Clerk	Present

Liaison officer:	Alan Slavin	Present
Note:	Mr. Slavin arrived at 8:08 am	

Ex Officio:	David Menard, Director	Present
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The meeting was called to order at 8:03 A.M and was held in room 27 at Memorial Town Hall, 54 Marion Road, Wareham, MA 02571.

The minutes of April 18, 2019 were read and approved: 2-0-0

There were no licenses this month to approve.

There were no monuments to approve this month.

#### Director's Report:

The Director of Municipal Maintenance stated that there were three interments since the last meeting, all of which were full burials. He also informed the Cemetery Commissioners that he, as their representative, approved six monuments which were placed in either the Centre or Agawam cemeteries. He asked for a policy on purchasing monuments/markers via the internet, as many people are starting to inquire about this. The Cemetery Commissioners responded by stating that they would prefer to wait until Tom Daly is contracted to offer advice and his opinion on that subject.

Mr. Menard also informed the Cemetery Commissioners that he has begun the spring cleanup in both the Centre and Agawam cemeteries. There has been a lot of resistance among the lot owners with regards to the cleanup who feel that Municipal Maintenance is wrong by removing items and plantings from the graves in the cemeteries. Municipal

Maintenance is receiving the wrong representation by the Town residents. They feel that the rules and regulations have never been followed before, so why should it start now? The Cemetery Commissioners and Mr. Menard wanted to wait until the new rules and regulations had been approved by Wareham residents before starting the cleanup. Note: the last time cemetery rules and regulations had been adopted by the Town was in 1986, over thirty-two (32) years ago. Many people did not realize that there were three hearings and two town meetings before the revised rules and regulations were adopted. The culture of thinking needs to be changed with regards to the cemetery and its rules.

Mr. Menard plans on repairing the lights in Centre cemetery and removing large bushes and shrubs from the cemeteries in order to make them look pristine and less of a safety issue.

A discussion ensued regarding Jim Souza of Monument Preservation and cleaning headstones within the Town cemeteries. He came to the MMD office requesting information on the proper procedure needed to conduct his services on town property. If Mr. Souza were to be hired by the town or a monument owner he would need to have a signed memorandum of agreement with the town, as well as, a certificate of liability. The Cemetery Commissioners also stated that the older stones/monuments should be left alone and not be cleaned. It was noted that two flat stones near Mosquito Dam Road need to be repaired, as well.

The application for the open seat as a Cemetery Commissioner was submitted by Susan Akins and was voted and accepted by the Board of Selectmen. Kathy Bird originally stated that she would remain as a Cemetery Commissioners for one extra year, but during the meeting, she opted to remain as a Cemetery Commissioner for an additional three years instead. Mr. Silva will remain a Cemetery Commissioner for one more year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 a.m.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 20, 2019, 8:00 am at the MMD office.

*scanned & emailed  
1/10/20*