



Jack M. Silva
Kathleen Bird
Susan Akins

TOWN OF WAREHAM

Cemetery Commissioners

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CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Thursday, March 5, 2020

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	Present
Liaison officer:	Alan Slavin	Absent
Ex Officio:	David Menard, Director	Present
Guests:	John Foster, Financial Director	Present
	Tom Daly, Cemetery Helpful Solutions	Present

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am, with roll call being taken by Mrs. Bird, everyone was present, except Mr. Slavin. Mr. John Foster, Financial Director for Wareham and Mr. Thomas Daly, Cemetery Helpful Solutions, were requested to appear at this meeting to discuss the finances of the cemetery accounts, as well as, other cemetery subjects.

Mr. Foster explained that the perpetual care interest account was in agreement with Vadar (the Town's accounting software) having a total of \$16,681.46 and the principal perpetual care account was shown as having a total of \$368, 641.00. The sales of lots and graves shows a total collected of \$67,808.00. Mr. Foster also noticed Article 20 which was approved at the April, 2019 Town Meeting in the amount of \$6,500.00 was not deducted from the sale of lots and grave account. It should have been removed and transferred into an account entitled: Unclaimed sites care of 3 cemeteries, therefore, Mr. Foster's report and Vardar's did not agree.

- Note: Since this meeting, the Town Accountant corrected the debit and transferred the money into the new account: Unclaimed sites care of 3 cemeteries.

Mr. Daly stated that the governing body should determine if a thresh hold should be met for perpetual care interest. It was suggested not to cap the interest but instead to reinvest it and add the accrued money into this account and build the funds even more. That way the perpetual care interest will still be available for use, especially when an unforeseen situation occurs.

Other subjects discussed on the agenda were:

Measures need to be made available to know what the cemeteries financial status is in order to plan for various projects such as starting a cemetery mapping program which would cost approximately \$9,000.00, as well as, preserving and restoring old headstones and cemetery stone walls. Since Mr. Foster is willing to give the Commissioners the financial information they need, the Commissioners will now have a better idea of where the cemetery finances are.

The Cemetery Commissioners had previously discussed a plan of action to hire seasonal or part-time labor to assist in the cemetery, but unfortunately, at this time it is not a violable solution.

Another topic of discussion was the need to set up a procedure, a type of "formula" which could be created for the return of perpetual care monies. Perhaps, if a grave is 50 years or older a set number could be established to charge additional money for perpetual care. If there is a request for a burial, would it be possible to add an additional fee for perpetual care.

How to begin the acquisition of old graves? Mr. Daly, Cemetery Helpful Solutions, requested information on graves that are seventy-five years or older. Mr. Daly was later given the information he requested so that he can begin the process of the Town taking back these old graves and re-selling them in order to generate additional revenue.

The residential policy was again brought up for discussion. Who can purchase lots and graves from the Town of Wareham? Should there be dual prices for both resident and non-resident? The Cemetery Commissioners need to start addressing this issue. Mr. Silva, in his opinion, stated that if someone owns a lot or a grave(s), they should have the right to burial whomever they choose. Currently, a non-resident cannot purchase lots or graves from the town of Wareham. Another idea mentioned was if someone wanted to purchase a lot and graves(s) and they were a non-resident, to raise the cost of the sale of lots/graves and perpetual care and inform them of the stipulation of purchasing no more than two graves, unless they go before the Cemetery Commissions to request the purchase of more than two graves. Suggestion- To create a Purchase Price List for both resident and non-resident.

Motion given to adjourn meeting.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kathleen L. Bird". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the lower right area of the page.