



Jack M. Silva
Kathleen Bird
Susan Akins

TOWN OF WAREHAM

Cemetery Commissioners

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CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Thursday, August 22, 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	Present
Liaison officer:	Alan Slavin	Absent
Ex Officio:	David Menard, Director	Present

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 A.M.

The minutes of July 18, 2019 were read and approved: 3-0-0

There were no licenses to approve.

A request to have a headstone installed on the Snell lot located in Agawam cemetery was presented and discussed at length. Tom Daly, Cemetery Helpful Solutions, was present and informed the Commissioners that Jesse Snell is still the lot owner and he would like to know why his name wasn't listed on the proposed stone. He stated that everyone interred in the lot should have their name listed on the back of the stone. The family will need to be contacted to discuss the stone, therefore, this request was tabled until the next meeting. 3-0-0.

Director's Report:

The Director of Municipal Maintenance stated that there were four (4) interments since the last meeting, two of which were full burials and two were cremations. He also informed the Cemetery Commissioners that he, as their representative, approved one 2 x 1, headstone for Benjamin Suddard, which will be installed in Agawam Cemetery Annex Section.

Mr. Menard also informed the Cemetery Commissioners that he is still trying to find time to finish cleaning up the Agawam and Centre cemeteries so as to conform to the cemetery rules and regulations.

Old Business:

A discussion ensued regarding the marker request for Erica Leigh Weiss which was presented at last month's meeting seeking approval. The schematic showed a ceramic photo of Erica, as well as, the letters "RIP" next to "a Shining Star". The Cemetery Commissioners took a vote last month to see if it was possible to have "RIP" spelled out as "Rest in Peace, as their preference, to be placed under the wording "A Shining Star, but will allow the RIP if it is due to a financial burden. It was unknown at this meeting if the request had been made to the lot owner. This marker request was tabled for the next meeting.

Once the Commissioners received the decree from probate and family court stating that Southcoast Resident Services was given guardianship of Carol Ravida, a vote was taken to allow the installation of a flat marker for Carol Ravida, Agawam Annex, Lot 234, grave 7. Vote: 3-0-0.

Once again the request to approve the Pina bench for lot 283 graves 1 and 2 in the Centre Annex, was presented before the Commissioners. The Commissioners had requested a final set of documents to be presented for review which would include: a sample portrait, the size of the photo and what the wording and its placement will be on the bench. All of the requested information was presented and notarized and a final vote to install the bench was taken. 3-0-0.

Cemetery Commissioners requested a copy of the final cemetery schedule for FY'19. It will be ready to be presented at the next meeting.

New Business:

Ordering monuments online: Where will they be shipped from? Will it be a headstone? Who is going to set them in place? Tom Daly suggested to have the home owner obtain a certificate of insurance in order for them to install the stone themselves. Another question: How do we know the stone is installed correctly? What if the stone is received and it is not as ordered (too big)?

Tom Daly also suggested using a card system which would entail sending out a card when the foundation pad has been laid in place, leaving this department a paper trail.

Mr. Daly also discussed the specification of memorials policy. He asked if this office had the sheet and Mr. Menard stated that there wasn't a written policy, but for the most part they were the basic 2 x 1 or 3 x 1. Mr. Daly stated there should be monument specifications in each section of the cemetery.

Ms. Akins asked Mr. Daly for an explanation on the monies spent in perpetual care. He stated that only the perpetual care interest can be used and the principal cannot be touched. The Cemetery Commissioners are still trying to receive a final figure for the sale of lots and graves, perpetual care principal and perpetual care interest. To the best of their knowledge there isn't a lot of money left in the perpetual care interest fund because it was used to purchase the Agawam Expansion section of the cemetery.

He would also be willing to come back at a later date to review the cemetery paperwork.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2019, 8:00 am at the MMD office.

