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CITY OF MELROSE

WYOMING CEMETERY

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Cemetery Administrator

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Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2026, 8:45 A.M.

Melrose City Hall, Cassidy Conference Room, 562 Main Street, Melrose, MA 02176

Attendance:

Chair, Susan Cann (SC)

Cemetery Administrator, Denise Slane (DS)

Co-Chair, Eileen Hamblin (EH)

Commission Member, Paul Cusolito (PC)

Call to Order

SC called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

Review of Minutes

Meeting minutes from March 19, 2026, were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by EH and seconded by PC. Minutes accepted.

Financial Report

The financial report for March 2026, as prepared by DS was reviewed. A motion to accept the reports was made by EH and seconded by PC. Reports accepted.

Public Comment

A motion to open the meeting for public comment was made by EH and seconded by SC. All in favor. Floor opened at 8:46.

Resident Mark Garipay spoke to the commission about the expansion of the cemetery and the Ripley school land. He expressed his concern about the city selling the land as this would be a onetime payment to the city and that sales of graves create revenue for the city. He also stated that the cemetery commission should not give away any land. It was also stated that there is a survey that has been put out to residents about the Ripley School land, but that many residents are not aware of the survey.

A motion to close the meeting for public comment was made by EH and seconded by PC. All in favor. Floor closed at 8:57.

New Business

Evergreen Section

DS presented a letter from a resident concerned about the garden area in the Evergreen section. SC stated that she had also spoken with the resident while at the cemetery a few days ago. It was discussed that the electrical had been damaged and the fountain was not in working condition. DS notified the commission that the electrical was repaired yesterday and that the parts to repair the water fountain are on order. It was discussed that once the fountain was repaired the garden will also be replanted. SC requested that once the repairs are done that, we notify the resident of the status. DS stated that a letter will go out to the resident once repairs are done.

Old Business

Spring Cleanup

DS gave an update from the cemetery foreman on spring cleanup.

Update on Cemetery Equipment

SC stated she spoke with the DPW Director and that they have received the specs for the new dump truck for the cemetery from the cemetery foreman. It was discussed that the V-plow specs also be submitted as part of the dump truck specs. DS will ask the foreman to submit the V-plow specs to DPW.

Discussion and Vote on Veteran graves and requirements

It was decided that the commission will not be making any policy changes to Veterans' graves.

Discussion and Vote on Veterans Flag Policy

Bob Driscoll from the Veteran Advisory Board spoke to the commission about the flag policy and the removal of flags from the Veterans graves. The proposed policy change was discussed at past cemetery commission meetings and Veteran Advisory Board meetings, and the wording has been agreed upon.

Motion: Made by EH to accept the new flag policy for Veteran graves.

Second: By SC

Further Discussion: None

Vote: 3-yes 0-no VOTE PASSED

DS will get the new policy posted to the cemetery website and rules and regulations.

Future Cemetery Expansion

SC stated that she had met with the city planner and solicitor about the possibility of a land swap for the Ripley school land. She stated that the land looks to be about the same in size but that surveying would need to be done to determine if the land could be used for casket burials or the install of a columbarium in the future. EH recommended that the commission walk the land so that they can get a sense for the land and possible use. The commission agreed and a future meeting will be held to walk the grounds to look at the possible areas of expansion.

Items not reasonably anticipated by Chairman at time of posting

Capital Improvement Plan

SC discussed the commission start the planning process now to get onto the next capital improvement plan for expansion. The current capital improvement plan was reviewed, and it was discussed that the cemetery work on a business/master plan that would be presented to the city council. It was agreed that this item continue to be discussed at future meetings.

Proof of Residency

DS presented a concern from a funeral home about the proof of residency policy. It was discussed that the process be re-visited with all departments that are involved with this process to help make the experience of the residents better during a difficult time.

EH made a motion to adjourn, PC second the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m.