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CITY OF MELROSE

WYOMING CEMETERY

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Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2026, 8:45 A.M.

Wyoming Cemetery, 205 Sylvan Street, Melrose, MA 02176

Attendance:

Chair, Susan Cann (SC)

Cemetery Administrator, Denise Slane (DS)

Co-Chair, Eileen Hamblin (EH)

Cemetery Foreman, Jack Rossi (JR)

Commission Member, Paul Cusolito (PC)

Call to Order

SC called the meeting to order at 8:47 a.m.

Public Comment

A motion to open public comment was made by EH and seconded by SC. All in favor. Floor opened at 8:47.

Resident Phil Kukura introduced himself and stated that he felt there is a need for a columbarium as an option for future burials.

Ken Fung of Stoneham introduced himself to inform the commission about the project he has been doing with Veteran burial documentation.

A motion to close the meeting for public comment was made by EH and seconded by PC. All in favor. Floor closed at 8:51.

SC and EH invited the members of the public to join the walk through of the grounds.

New Business

Walk Through - Cemetery Grounds

May 21, 2026

Discussions:

- *Ripley School Land Swap*

- It was discussed that a possible land swap with part of the Ripley school land and cemetery land would create an area of use for the cemetery. Currently part of the Ripley School sits on land owned by the cemetery. SC has started looking into this and what the process would be with the Planning Department, Mayor's Office and City Solicitor. She will continue to investigate this and report back to the commission at a future meeting. The area in discussion already has a few memorial benches and trees on it for the cemetery. The cemetery has been maintaining the area over the years as the section is located within the cemetery wall.

- *Proposed Locations for a Columbarium*

- It was discussed that as part of the cemetery expansion project that locations be determined for the installation of a columbarium wall/niches for inurnment of cremains in the future.
 - Locations discussed were:
 - The back area where cremation burials currently take place behind the stone office building as you enter. It was determined that some trees could be removed and the area landscaped around the columbarium to incorporate into the cremation grave burials.
 - Another location would be where the land swap would happen with the Ripley School. The area is currently cleared; there are a few stone benches that could be repositioned/moved and a few memorial trees along the roadway that would remain and be designed into the landscaping of the area.
 - The Cemetery Foreman also pointed out the area of Rosebay/Netherwood Ave. that could accommodate a columbarium. However, this would not be the first choice as once the drainage project has been completed it might be possible to use this area for casket burials.

- *Proposed Locations for Future Locations for Casket Burials*

- The Commission and Cemetery Foreman reviewed areas that previous administration had proposed for burials of caskets.
 - It was determined that Vinca Ave. would not be a good area for expansion due to tree growth and accessibility of burials.
 - It was discussed that the Rosebay Area could possibly be used for burials in the future but first the drainage in the area would need to be fixed. It was discussed that this repair is part of a large-scale drainage project for this area of the city. The commission will continue looking into the section for expansion for casket burials and stay in contact with DPW to determine repairs and timelines of the project.
 - Eagle Ave. was discussed as the next area of expansion for casket burials. This area is an extension of the current working area, Vesper Ave. It was discussed that the roadway may also be able to accommodate a few upright cremation graves, but the area would need to be properly surveyed to confirm this.
 - Section P, as you enter the cemetery was discussed as future burial space for Veterans or possible single graves with flat markers only. The commission will investigate if this would be usable space.

- *Livermore Mausoleum Repairs*

- The Cemetery Foreman reviewed the repairs that are needed for the Livermore Mausoleum. It was discussed that the commission would need to try to contact a descendant of Mary Livermore to ask permission for the mausoleum repairs to be done. EH stated that she had found a descendant of the Livermore family and that the commission will work on getting in touch with them. The Foreman stated that the cemetery may be able to do some of the repairs but that the commission will need to get in touch with a monument company for quotes to have the stonework repairs done. It was discussed that the Commission will look into the cost of the repairs and present them at a future meeting.

- *Evergreen Section Project*

- DS updated the Commission that the parts were ordered to repair the waterfall in this area and that they are still waiting on one piece for the repair. The foreman explained that when the part arrives, they will repair the fountain and garden area. DS will update the Commission at the next meeting on the status of this project.

- *Tree Removal*

- During the walk through the Cemetery Foreman pointed out trees that are scheduled for removal due to safety concerns. JR explained that he is working with the DPW forestry division to complete these removals.

- *Veterans Memorial*

- It was discussed that the Veterans Advisory Board is looking to add a walkway of bricks around the flag retirement fire pit at the cemetery. The foreman stated that this could be done and would have to be measured out. SC stated that the Commission will setup a meeting with the Veterans Advisory Board to discuss the project details.

- *Zina Greenwood Plaque*

- SC stated that the Greenwood map located in the sitting area in the front garden at the cemetery entrance by the waterfall needs to be replaced. The current map does not show the Knollwood and Vesper sections and needs to be updated. SC stated the Commission will look into replacing the map and DS will see what she can find for paperwork for the original plaque.
- The Cemetery Foreman also informed the commission that the waterfall pump needed to be replaced and that it has been completed. He also stated that they removed some overgrown shrubs in the area.

- *Roadways in Need of Paving*

- Priority Locations
 - From flagpole at the entrance on Memorial Ave. to Chapel Ave.
 - Chapel Ave.
 - Oriole Ave. in front of the garage area.
 - Central Ave. through Spruce Ave.
 - Locust Ave. (Back Section)
- Second Phase Locations
 - Pine Ave. from the Evergreen Section to Locust Ave.
 - Robin Ave.
 - Wyoming Ave. between Section 6 and 7.

Items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair at time of posting

None

EH made a motion to adjourn, PC second the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.