

Town of Ayer

CEMETERY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes from April 10, 2023



Attendance: Members Betsy Diskin, Susan Tordella-Williams and Sam Goodwin

Also in attendance: Dan Van Schalkwyk, DPW Director and Barbara Tierney, Finance Manager

Call to Order: Sam Goodwin called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm in the DPW Office Conference Room.

Acceptance of agenda and minutes

Motion: Diskin moved and Goodwin seconded a motion to accept the agenda. Motion passed 3-0.

Motion: Goodwin moved and Diskin seconded a motion to accept the March 6, 2023 meeting minutes.

Motion passed 3-0.

Public Input

No member of the public participated when asked for Public Input.

Accounting Procedures

Discussion with Barbara Tierney, Town Finance Manager about the management of cemetery funds which consist of a \$60,000 perpetual trust fund, of which the interest can be spent on maintenance and the \$20,000 expendable fund to be used at will by the commission. The town received the \$80,000 from the Woodlawn Cemetery two years ago and decreed how to manage the money. The cemetery fund received \$19,064 income and interest in 2022-23 fiscal year, and \$45,000 from the annual town budget. An average of 11 burials occur each year. Tordella asked Tierney to provide a report on how much interest income was generated this year. Diskin asked if the commission could change the management of the funds and did not receive an answer.

Green Burials

Discussion of how to proceed with consideration of green burials ended with Tordella moving to table the matter.

Motion: Tordella moved and Goodwin seconded a motion to table the green burial review and discussion until after the general regulations have been adopted. Motion passed 3-0

Continued review and revision of regulations

The Commission continued reviewing Woodlawn Cemetery regulations and coming to consensus on revisions and additions.

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Discussion of the location of the next meeting ended with Van Schalkwyk to determine the Commission's need for hybrid or in-person prior to the next meeting.

**Motion:** Tordella motioned and Diskin seconded it to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 p.m. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Minutes recorded and submitted by Susan Tordella-Williams, Clerk.

Minutes reviewed and approved by the Cemetery Commission on May 1, 2023.

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_

Susan Tordella-Williams