

**HOPE CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING**

**MAY 2, 2017**

**Meeting began: 4:15PM**

**Meeting ended: 5:04PM**

**Attendance:**

Richard Perry	– Commission Member
Matthew Curewitz	– Commission Member
Nicole Apostola	– Commission member
Robert C Antonelli Jr	– Assistant Commissioner
Stephanie Choquette	– Staff Assistant II

**Acceptance of last meeting's minutes:**

Nicole Apostola  
Matthew Curewitz  
Richard Perry

Mrs. Busada  
Mr. Swydan  
Margaret Melicau – 842 Pleasant Street Worcester, MA

## New Business:

- A. Mrs. Busada is petitioning a lot purchase that only allows a flat marker to be placed at this set location. She would like to place a monument on this lot 75 Section 105. She had written a letter for this request and had her daughter read it to the Board members as well as the people attending the meeting.
1. She states she was unaware of this restriction when the lot was purchased and would like this changed so possibly a small monument can be placed.
  2. Daughter of Mrs. Busada does not see how this can cause any future problems in regards to maintenance or if other inquiries occur for she states “we will not tell anyone. “
  3. Mr. Antonelli explains that the section was designed in this fashion for a unified look and maintenance purposes. These lots are not purchased as a bulk sale. He states he is sympathetic on the loss of their loved one but this will have to be discussed and reviewed by the Administration and Board.
  4. All the paperwork / documentation signed by Harold Busadah is quite clear that he purchased 3 lots; 2 - 2 Grave Lots flat marker location and 1 - 4 Grave Lot as a Monumented location.
  5. Also the family continues to state that the lots were purchased thru the church, paperwork states otherwise for it was sold by the city for they had received a City Deed for this lot. Another factor was the pricing in the purchase of the lots. Flat Marker locations were less expensive than the locations of monumented site locations.
  6. Mr. Swydan (cousin of Mrs. Busada) would like to state that there should be no issue in accommodating her to have a small monument on her gravesite, for it has no effect with the maintenance issue. And that it was not discussed with them that they were not allowed a monument when purchased.
  7. But again, paperwork is clearly signed by Harold Busadah who purchased the lots.
  8. Mr. Curewitz: in past history this does become an issue for the other families feel guidelines do not need to be followed and the Cemetery does receive backlash on these types of issues. So this does impact the future in regards to selling lots and following regulations set by the cemetery for each section.
  9. Mr. Swydan: states this is why in regards to the Master Plan the City will be selling all of the lots at Hope Cemetery.
  10. Nicole Apostola: Questions who was the original buyer and signed for all of the lots / answer Mr. Harold Busadah.
  11. In determining what the response will be for this request / the Board has decided to defer it to the next meeting for more discussion on how to proceed. Mr. Curewitz agrees to table this item for the next meeting.
  12. Board Member – Mr. Zoback will be needed for the next meeting for this discussion.

**B. Master Plan**

1. What communities of religious faiths have showed an interest: Islamic-Islamic Community, Jewish, Orthodox, Mandaism, the cemetery is non-denominational
2. The cemetery is obligated to bury the dead for it is a City cemetery
3. Ground Water Issue? –No it is not
4. Has the location of the upper side of Hope Ave been determined of what organization or faith would be there? If so what will be the requirements for containers (vaults) this has not been determined at this time. Comparison – Green Burial
5. Nicole Apostola; Green burials also include non-religious individuals as well.

**Old Business:**

- A. Friends of Hope Cemetery – Annual Meeting June 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM at Hope Cemetery
  1. Jan Parent will be setting up walks during the Month of May for the public to participate
- B. Water System: Additional / upgrading of spigots after Memorial Day
- C. Fiscal Year Budget 17 -18 under development
- D. Capital Budget 17-18 under development discussions are being held next Tuesday
- E. Seasonal Help: have been hired

**Meeting approved to adjourn at 5:04PM:**

Matthew Curewitz  
Nicole Apostola  
Richard Perry

**Next Meeting: June 6, 2017 at 4:00PM**