

TOWN OF GILL

M A S S A C H U S E T T S



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SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 26, 2016

Minutes of an Executive Session

Present: Greg Snedeker, John Ward, and Randy Crochier, Selectboard members; Ray Purington, Admin. Assistant; Attorney Donna MacNicol, Town Counsel.

The executive session convened at 5:45 PM in the Administrative Assistant's Office at the Gill Town Hall.

The Selectboard met with Town Counsel to consider the purchase of real estate, i.e. the Riverside Cemetery.

The officers of the Riverside Cemetery Association have informed the Town of their intent to disband the Association. They have offered the cemetery and the association's financial holdings to the Town, if the Town will agree to take over responsibility for the care and maintenance of the cemetery.

Attorney MacNicol explained that Massachusetts General Law Chapter 114, Section 18 allows towns to take over abandoned cemeteries. Doing this by a Town Meeting vote to acquire the land and assets of the Association is the most straightforward way to accomplish this, and to establish the Town's ownership going forward. There is a Superior Court process that would involve petitioning to dissolve the Association, however it is a longer and more expensive process to produce the same results.

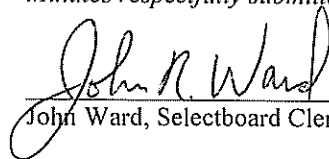
MacNicol noted that it is very important to keep clear records of the amounts in any trust funds or perpetual care funds held by the Association. Any funds that are nonexpendable for the Association will need to stay as nonexpendable once transferred to the Town.

It was discussed that perpetual care funds from the Association will not cover the yearly costs to maintain the cemetery, and that the Town will likely need to appropriate more money to the Cemetery Commission for this purpose. The advantage to the Town is that the unsold lots in the active areas of the cemetery, plus future lots in the empty wooded land owned by the Association, will take care of the Town's needs for cemetery lots for many years to come.

MacNicol will initiate a title search on the cemetery land, and the Selectboard will include the purchase of the Riverside Cemetery on the warrant for the May 9th annual Town Meeting.

Crochier made a motion, seconded by Ward, to come out of executive session. A roll call vote was taken: Crochier – aye; Ward – aye; Snedeker – aye. Motion carried by unanimous vote. The Selectboard left executive session at 6:40 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.



John Ward, Selectboard Clerk

Approved and Released on 9/6/2016