



## HOPE CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING

Monday February 6, 2023 – 4:00 P.M.

Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Administrative Office

Meeting Room A

50 Officer Manny Familia Way Worcester, MA 01605

Or

### If you choose to use the WebEx platform:

- 1) Go to [www.webex.com](http://www.webex.com)
- 2) Click the “join” button on the top right side of the screen
- 3) Enter Meeting ID#: 2306 022 3417
- 4) Enter password: Hopecomm2-06

### If you choose to attend via phone:

- 1) Call 1-415-655-0001
- 2) Enter Meeting ID#: 2306 022 3417

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance (Roll Call)
3. Acceptance of Minutes for the January 9, 2023 (Roll Call)
4. To request a reasonable accommodation or interpretation or submit written comments or questions in advance of the meeting, please contact the Hope Cemetery by email at [Hopecemetery@worcesterma.gov](mailto:Hopecemetery@worcesterma.gov). Please note that interpretation requests must be received no later than 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Para solicitar una interpretacion razonable, o enviar comentarios o preguntas por escrito por favor comuniquese con la oficina de la Division de Parques, Recreo & Cementerio por correo electronico a [Hopecemetery@worcesterma.gov](mailto:Hopecemetery@worcesterma.gov). Por favor note que las solicitudes de interpretacion deberan ser enviadas 48 horas antes de la reunion.
5. Public Participation – Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 and in order to ensure active, public engagement, the City of Worcester currently allows for both in person and remote participation at the Hope Cemetery Commission meetings. To partake in the “Public Participation” section of this meeting, you may join us directly within the 50 Officer Manny Familia Way Meeting Room A, follow the information above to join via the WebEx application or dial the direct line as indicated. If you would like to raise your hand when in the meeting as a call-in user, you may dial \*3.

6. Assistant Commissioners Report (See Report Topics Below)
  
  7. Old Business
    - a. NA
  
  8. New Business
    - a. Garden Cemetery Concepts
    - b. Green Burials
    - c. [City Parks | City of Worcester, MA \(worcesterma.gov\)](http://www.worcesterma.gov)
  
  9. Date of Next Meeting:
    - March 6, 2023
    - April 10, 2023
    - May 8, 2023
    - June 5, 2023
  
  8. Meeting Adjourned (Roll Call)
- 

**ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:**

- |     |   |        |
|-----|---|--------|
| 1.  | Friends Of Hope Cemetery -                    | NA     |
|     | a. Signage                                    |        |
|     | b. Cemetery Plantings                         |        |
|     | c. Events                                     |        |
|     | d. Sound System                               |        |
|     | e. Mausoleum                                  |        |
| 2.  | Genealogical -                                | NA     |
| 3.  | Compost Site -                                | NA     |
| 4.  | Water System -                                | NA     |
| 5.  | Hope Cemetery Records -                       | NA     |
| 6.  | Perpetual Care Fund – City Treasurer -        | NA     |
| 7.  | Rules and Regulation Changes -                | NA     |
| 8.  | Lot Sale Fee Changes -                        | NA     |
| 9.  | Interment & Associated Fees -                 | NA     |
| 10. | Fiscal Year Budget -                          | Update |
| 11. | Fiscal Year Capital Budget -                  | Update |
| 12. | Donations                                     | NA     |
| 13. | Monuments and Mausoleums -                    | NA     |
|     | a. Discussion on new cremation burial options |        |
| 14. | Section Development -                         |        |
|     | a. Section 39 Possible Columbarium            | NA     |

- 15. Building Rehab - NA
  - a. Barn
  - b. Admin
- 16. Condition of Hope – NA
- 17. Hope Cemetery Master Plan Approved by City Council 10-10-17
  - a. [City Parks | City of Worcester, MA \(worcesterma.gov\)](#)
- 18. Misc. -
  - a. Productivity Reports
  - b. Staff
  - c. City Council Orders
    - NA
  - d. Articles
  - e. Other





## HOPE CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING **MINUTES**

Monday January 9, 2023 – 4:00 P.M.

Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Administrative Office

Meeting Room A

50 Officer Manny Familia Way Worcester, MA 01605

Or

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- 1) Go to [www.webex.com](http://www.webex.com)
- 2) Click the “join” button on the top right side of the screen
- 3) Enter Meeting ID#: 2310 537 4299
- 4) Enter password: Hopecomm1-09

### If you choose to attend via phone:

- 1) Call 1-415-655-0001
- 2) Enter Meeting ID#: 2310 537 4299

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance (Roll Call) 3 present 2 absent
  - a. Commissioner Curewitz was present
  - b. Commissioner Deedy was present
  - c. Commissioner Faucher was absent
  - d. Commissioner Idris was absent
  - e. Commissioner Lizotte was virtually present
3. Acceptance of Minutes for the NA (Roll Call) – There were no minutes from previous meeting
4. To request a reasonable accommodation or interpretation or submit written comments or questions in advance of the meeting, please contact the Hope Cemetery by email at [Hopecemetery@worcesterma.gov](mailto:Hopecemetery@worcesterma.gov). Please note that interpretation requests must be received no later than 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Para solicitar una interpretacion razonable, o enviar comentarios o preguntas por escrito por favor comuniquese con la oficina de la Division de Parques, Recreo & Cementerio por correo electronico a [Hopecemetery@worcesterma.gov](mailto:Hopecemetery@worcesterma.gov). Por favor note que las solicitudes de interpretacion deberan ser enviadas 48 horas antes de la reunion.
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6. Assistant Commissioners Report (See Report Topics Below)

7. Old Business

- a. NA

8. New Business

- a. Chair & Vice Chair Elections

9. Date of Next Meeting:

- February 6, 2023
- March 6, 2023
- April 10, 2023
- May 8, 2023
- June 5, 2023

10. Meeting Adjourned (Roll Call)

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**ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER’S REPORT:**

Assistant Commissioner Robert Antonelli commented that the Hope Cemetery Commission had not been in session in about 3 years frame because there weren’t enough Commissioner members and then there was COVID, scheduling conflicts. Now we are moving forward setting up and having all of our commissions and we are allowing some in person and virtual components. Virtual component technically ends in April unless it gets reapproved. If it does not get approved Commission members will have to come in person.

Commissioner Deedy asked if after April, if the virtual meetings were cancelled, if future meetings would be going back to Hope Cemetery.

Assistant Commissioner Antonelli explained that they would continue to have meetings at 50 Officer Manny Familia Way for two reasons; 1. The camera and virtual system are already built in at this location 2. To make it easier on Communications staff, so they don’t have to bring all of that equipment and do all that setup every time there’s a meeting at Hope Cemetery. He also indicated that some meetings would be held at Hope Cemetery as long as he could schedule Communications staff to set up at Hope Cemetery.

- |     |   |                                      |
|-----|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1.  | Friends Of Hope Cemetery -  | Active mostly outdoor events         |
|     | a. Signage  |                                      |
|     | b. Cemetery Plantings   |                                      |
|     | c. Events   |                                      |
|     | d. Sound System   |                                      |
|     | e. Mausoleum  |                                      |
| 2.  | Genealogical -  | On hold                              |
| 3.  | Compost Site -  | NA                                   |
| 4.  | Water System -  | Working well with exception of a few |
|     | nozzles   |                                      |
| 5.  | Hope Cemetery Records -   | NA                                   |
| 6.  | Perpetual Care Fund – City Treasurer -  | NA                                   |
| 7.  | Rules and Regulation Changes -  | NA                                   |
| 8.  | Lot Sale Fee Changes -  | NA                                   |
| 9.  | Interment & Associated Fees -   | NA                                   |
| 10. | Fiscal Year Budget -  | Update below                         |
|     | a. Fiscal Year Capital Budget - Currently working on capital and operating budget for fiscal 24 that starts on July 1, approximately \$150,000.00 worth of work done this year. A full renovation of the front entrance and the rear entrance with a gating system. Some wall repairs as well as the worst streets were redone. Continue to improve and enhance the cemetery, the two sections that were rebuilt, the new renovations that we built are open and lots are selling. Staffing wise there is an additional working foreman position down there. So now there are 1 Foreman, 2 working foreman and six laborers full-time, plus 3 – 4 seasonal staff. Assistant Commissioner asked if there were any questions.   |                                      |
|     | b. Commissioner Curewitz asked about the master plan that was being worked on, he commented that it seemed like since the last meeting he attended it seemed it was getting to the end, but we never formally completed.  |                                      |
|     | c. Assistant Commissioner Antonelli responded that the master plan was completed and approved by the Commission and a copy of it would be online. He said that some work had been done but not everything has been completed.   |                                      |
|     | d. Commissioner Curewitz said he didn't remember everything, but he had a question about replacing large portions of the fence with a berm and then even making it into a half berm in order to place more remains.   |                                      |
|     | e. Assistant Commissioner Antonelli said that was still part of the plan, explained the location.   |                                      |
|     | f. Commissioner Curewitz asked about the Nixon Gates if they had been repaired.   |                                      |
|     | g. Assistant Commissioner Antonelli said that all of those have been replaced. There was an additional fence that was hit by a vehicle that was also repaired through accident recovery program. The main gates coming in are now usable gates so we can secure the cemetery as part of that program. Security cameras at both entrances have been included, to assist managing illegal dumping, and tracking who's coming in and out. The goal is to have the New York Street entrance have a code to gain entrance and exit during non-operating hours. The plan is that the front gate will be secured at dusk, the back gate will automatically secure itself at a particular time. There will be a pressure pad, that will allow the that single gate to open up, if anyone was still in the cemetery, they'll be able to leave but anyone coming in will need a code to be able to come in through the front gate, or New York Street. Emergency agencies will have the code. |                                      |

- h. Commissioner Curewitz asked about the barn if it was still being used. He remembered there were some structural concerns on some parts of it.
  - i. Assistant Commissioner Antonelli explained that there was some work done to support the flooring in the barn. He stated he's working with the Commissioner and the city manager, in coming up with a plan for an alternative storage area, in particular for equipment that gets stored in the barn right now.
  - j. Commissioner Curewitz suggested using some of the existing parts of the barn to use on a new building for the purpose of the preservation.
11. Donations NA
  12. Monuments and Mausoleums - NA
    - a. Discussion on new cremation burial options
  13. Section Development -
    - a. Section 39 Possible Columbarium NA
  14. Building Rehab - NA
    - a. Barn
    - b. Admin
  15. Condition of Hope – NA
  16. Hope Cemetery Master Plan Approved by City Council 10-10-17
    - a. Construction of New Burial Areas Update
    - b. Commission Curewitz had questions in reference to number of burials and staffing needs and Chapel rentals.
  17. Misc. -
    - a. Productivity Reports
    - b. Staff
    - c. City Council Orders
      - NA
    - d. Articles
    - e. Other
  18. New Business – Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
    - a. A motion was made by Commissioner Deedy to elect Commissioner Curewitz as the Chairperson and Commissioner Lizotte as the Vice Chairperson. Second by Commissioner Curewitz. All were in favor. Motion was approved. 3 – 0
  19. Date of next meeting February 6, 2023.
  20. A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Curewitz. Second by Commissioner Deedy. All were in favor. Motion was approved 3 – 0.

**A copy of this full meeting will be available to view and listen to at:  
[www.worcesterma.gov/city-clerk/public-meetings/agendas-minutes](http://www.worcesterma.gov/city-clerk/public-meetings/agendas-minutes)**