



## HOPE CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING

Monday April 10, 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#: 2308 972 6908
- 4) Enter password: Hopecomm4-10

### If you choose to attend via phone:

- 1) Call 1-415-655-0001
- 2) Enter Meeting ID#: 2308 972 6908

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance (Roll Call)
3. Acceptance of Minutes for the February 6, 2023 (Roll Call) & March 6, 2023 (Table)
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. Garden Cemetery Concepts
- b. Green Burials
- c. Overview of the Hope Cemetery Master Plan
- d. Updated Hope Cemetery Map

8. New Business

- a. Number of Internments Buried in Indigent Area
- b. Burial Process Policy

9. Date of Next Meeting:

- May 8, 2023
- June 5, 2023
- September 11, 2023
- October 2, 2023
- November 6, 2023
- December 4, 2023
- January 8, 2024
- February 5, 2024
- March 4, 2024
- April 8, 2024
- May 13, 2024
- June 3, 2024

8. Meeting Adjourned (Roll Call)

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**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. <a href="http://www.worcesterma.gov">City Parks   City of Worcester, MA (worcesterma.gov)</a> |                                   |
| 18. | Misc. -  |                                   |
|     | a. Productivity Reports  |                                   |
|     | b. Staff   |                                   |
|     | c. City Council Orders   |                                   |
|     | • NA   |                                   |
|     | d. Articles  |                                   |
|     | e. Other   |                                   |





## HOPE CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING **MINUTES**

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. Called to Order at 4:10 PM
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 virtually present with No volume
  - e. Commissioner Lizotte was present
3. Acceptance of the Minutes for January 9, 2023.
  - a. Commissioner Deedy made a motion to accept the minutes. Second by Commissioner Lizotte. All were in favor. Motion was approved 3 – 0.
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.



- a. Assistant Commissioner Antonelli gave an update regarding the budget, he said they are in the middle of the budget season for next fiscal year, both on the capital side and the operational side. He plans to meet with the city manager in a month or so. He anticipates the budget will be sent to Council in May and set by the end of May beginning of June. To implement starting July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.
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 \(worcesterma.gov\)](http://www.worcesterma.gov)
    - b. Assistant Commissioner Antonelli explained that the above link to the Hope Cemetery Master Plan had been previously listed under the Parks site. However, he requested Technical Services to place a link under Hope Cemetery page.
    - c. Commissioner Curewitz recommended a review of the Master Plan with the new board to bring them up to speed.
    - d. Assistant Commissioner Antonelli made a note to add it to the following agenda.
  18. Misc. -
    - a. Productivity Reports
    - b. Staff
    - c. City Council Orders - NA
    - d. Articles
    - e. Other
  19. New Business:
    - a. Garden Cemetery Concepts
      - Commissioner Curewitz explained that Hope Cemetery is a garden cemetery. Garden Cemeteries rose in the late 1800s, and before that time, the majority of burials were done in like church graveyard. A movement came the kind of predated public parks, to make a non-denominational space for burying that would be pleasant and beautiful that people could go to. The word cemetery was specifically chosen as etymology, it means the resting place versus a graveyard which is pretty clear what that is. Over the decades the older sections of Hope Cemetery have adhered to that, but over the decades there are sections that are lawn cemetery which are much easier to maintain but they lose some of the charm. He stated he would like to keep the whole cemetery in line with the Garden Cemetery ideas as it was founded on.
      - There was a discussion on the Hope Cemetery Fence along Hope Ave.
    - b. Green Burials
      - Commissioner Curewitz explained that Green Burials is how they use to bury people, you dig a hole and put them in the ground. Now there's embalming and caskets and that was done for many reasons, one of them being if it was a diseased body the disease would leak and sicken other people. There's been a movement to go back to this idea of green burials, and it's an idea that the Commission has toyed around with in the past, but never made an Action Plan.

He stated that he brought it to this Commission to see if they want to pursue or at least think about it.

- Assistant Commissioner Antonelli updated the Commission on Green Burials at Hope Cemetery. He mentioned that about 2 – 3 years ago 2 new sections were built on the side of Hope Ave that is near 290 Highway. He stated that it was build out to meet a couple of goals. One was that if the majority of the first section would face Mecca, so that they would be able to properly bury someone from the Muslim Community, and they were able to design another section for green burial purposes. However, he said there's a caveat to that. The way it works is that the area is allowed to be green or Muslim. They're very similar in style, but a concrete vault is required, although with holes on the bottom. Allowing the body to touch the earth.
  - Commissioner Curewitz wanted to know what the new sections looks like and if the Green Burials have been advertised to the public.
  - Assistant Commissioner Antonelli explained that one of the areas is a flat marker area and the other a head stone area. He also indicated that there has been no advertising of green burials but that when individuals come in to purchase a lot or a grave they are informed of all types of lots Hope Cemetery has.
- c. Commissioner Deedy made a motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Lizotte. All were in favor. Motion was approved 3 – 0. Meeting was adjourned at 4:42 PM.

**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)**