

**City of Peabody
Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes**

Date: July 17, 2025

Time: 6:05 PM—7:05 PM

Location: Peabody City Hall, 24 Lowell St. Peabody, MA

Attendance:

Faye Kolhonen—Chairperson/Commissioner

Marty Goldsworthy—Commissioner

Celeste Sullivan—Commissioner/Clerk

Conor Morgan—Cemetery Superintendent

CITY OF PEABODY
2026 AUG -5 A 11:09
CITY CLERK

Administrative Matters:

Call to order: Chairperson Kolhonen called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Approval of previous minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Goldsworthy and seconded by Commissioner Sullivan to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2025 meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

Staffing: Mayor Bettencourt stated that Christine Turner had resigned and her position was posted. HR had identified a potential candidate to fill the open craftsman position.

Old Business:

Cedar Grove Expansion (Section K)—Geo-physical & Seismic Survey—No surveys were conducted as the accuracy level was not high enough to justify spending the money.

Evaluation of Leaning /Fallen Headstones: No progress to report.

Agenda Items:

Commissioner Sullivan stated that the Finance Commission had approved the capital budget without prior review by the Cemetery Commission. Mayor Bettencourt stated that future budgets would be

reviewed and approved by the Cemetery Commission prior to Finance Commission submission.

The approved FY 2025—2026 budget includes significant increases for tree maintenance (\$29,000) and new tree plantings (\$14,000).

Supt. Morgan emphasized the need for extensive tree work as many trees have not received regular maintenance and some trees are dangerous. The city is acquiring a new stump grinder for the Forestry Department, which will also be helpful to us. Supt. Morgan will assess the cost of repairs to the old stump grinder which currently is non-functional.

A motion was made to approve the FY 2025—2026 budget and it passed unanimously.

Section K Expansion—funding and planning:

Mayor Bettencourt said that expansion was essential due to limited availability of graves. As of today, only 12 graves remain in Section F (singles) and 17 in Section J (doubles). The mayor proposed reserving \$50,000 for the purchase of two columbaria—one for Section K and one for the Veterans Memorial.

A motion was made to reserve \$50,000 for the columbaria and passed unanimously.

Supt. Morgan presented two options for Section K development.

Option A:

K1—Double Vault Plots

K2—Side by Side Plots

K3—Columbarium

Option B:

K1 and K2—Side by Side Plots

K3—Columbarium

Estimated yield would be 458 graves with up to 3 cremations per grave.

A motion was made to select Option B and it passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05PM.