

MINUTES OF : Meeting of the Cemetery Commissioners

MEETING POSTED: YES

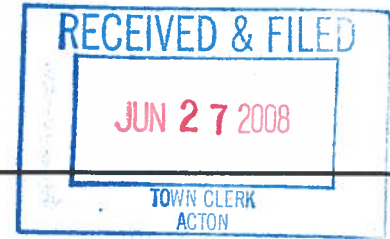
DATE: 6/25/2008

TIME: 2:00 pm

PLACE: Kennedy Service Bldg

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brewster Conant, Les Gerhardt, William Klauer

ALSO PRESENT: Tom Tidman, Shawn O'Malley, Allura Overstreet



MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT: 2:05pm

The meeting of 6/11/08 was canceled at the request of Brewster Conant and re-scheduled for 6/18/08. However the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting was canceled as well because it was never posted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dogs in cemeteries – No new info from the Board of Selectmen.

Attached letter from Town Council regarding the Sweeney lots requesting information from Beatrice Sweeney's will identifying her "heirs and assigns". No other info to date.

Al Farrar has brought the information requested by the Commissioners in the last meeting relating to his validity as proprietor of the Woodlawn L.3 S. 2 for the Commissioners review. Having reviewed the information submitted the Commissioners find the following:

1. Alden Farrar is the proprietor of L.122 S.3 Woodlawn as was specifically mentioned in his father's will.
2. No documents have been presented indicating the disposition of L. 3 S. 2 Woodlawn, therefore ownership is still in question.
3. A letter with these findings (attached) shall be sent to Alden Farrar and cc: to Mrs. Barbara Walsh.

NEW BUSINESS:

Brewster Conant has been re-appointed by the Select board as of June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Department information request from Town Hall (attached): Commissioners will contemplate and submit suggestions at the next meeting scheduled for 7/9/2008.

Mr. Trudell has complained about the condition of the shrubbery behind his wife's headstone on S14 L. 153 in Woodlawn. Margaret Garlow 978-392-0019 called to complain about the condition of the shrubs near her husband's grave L. 477 S. 14 Woodlawn. Also she would like the veteran's marker edged and raised. A letter to the Commissioners is in hand and attached.

Shawn reports that the shrubs in question are all ink berry shrubs which have been decimated by the deer over the winter. The Commissions agree that they should be replaced with another type of shrub or ornamental grasses which deer do not like. Shawn will research the quantities needed and prices to replace and submit them to the Commissioners at the 7/9/08 meeting for consideration.

Brewster Conant

*Les Gerhardt*  
Les Gerhardt

William A. Klauer

The new Select board liaison is Tara Fredericks. The Commissioners will forward Ms. Fredericks a letter to introduce themselves and invite her to the 7/9/08 meeting to discuss the operations and future needs of the Cemeteries.

Social Security Burial Benefit policy- Cathy Boyle from Acton Funeral Home reports that the Social Security Administration will only pay out burial benefits if the total bill for services does not exceed \$1500.00. With our rates now, this makes it almost impossible to do a full interment and still collect this benefit. After consideration the Commissioners have agreed to leave the rates as is and confer with the Board of Selectmen on a case by case basis.

A microburst storm cell went through the Town last night (6/24/08) and downed a lot of large leaders and uprooted 1 tree on Section 8 in Woodlawn. Most of the debris has been cleaned up but we are waiting to use Municipal Property's chipper to remove the rest.

There is a Town Hall Visioning Session scheduled for 6/25 7p, 6/26 7p, 6/28 10a. The Commissioners were advised in the event that they wish to send a representative.

Meeting adjourned at: 3:00 pm

Next meeting scheduled for: 7/9/2008

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Brewster Conant

*Les Gerhardt Chair*  
Les Gerhardt

William A. Klauer

## Allura Overstreet

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**From:** Mary deAlderete  
**Sent:** Friday, May 16, 2008 10:42 AM  
**To:** All Town Departments  
**Subject:** Department Information Request

Hi All,

The Town Clerk's Office, in collaboration with the IT Department, is putting together a handout that would act as a "Welcome Wagon" for new residents. We would love to include information from all departments that could provide newcomers insight into the workings of the Town and give them a headstart to finding the right department for their needs. It would eventually be incorporated into a web page with links to appropriate resources.

We do not need the information in any particular format, but we would appreciate your answers to the following:

The most frequently asked questions in your department, complete with answers.

A list of the most common requests to your department and possible links to forms that could be filled out beforehand.

Notes on any service that your department offers that might not be common knowledge.

We appreciate your time and thank you for your help!

Sincerely,

Town Clerk's Department

5/19/2008

June 13, 2008

Kevin B. Sweeney, Executor

Kathleen M. Curran, Executor

Margaret M. Paine, Executor

Robert Sweeney

RE: Lots Numbered 3, 4, 10 and 11, Section 6, Mount Hope Cemetery, Acton, MA

Dear Kevin, Kathleen, Margaret and Robert:

I am writing in an effort to clarify the Town's records as to the person or persons with authority to make decisions concerning Lots Numbered 3, 4, 10 and 11, Section 6, Mount Hope Cemetery, Acton, MA. As you know, Beatrice A. Sweeney, on behalf of herself and her heirs and assigns, was granted the exclusive right of burial for these four lots by certificate dated December 29, 1975. Beatrice has since passed away. The Town has received conflicting information from time to time since her passing as to who controls the rights with respect to these lots at this time.

To avoid any misunderstanding, the Town respectfully requests that you provide information on the identity of Beatrice A. Sweeney's "heirs and assigns" who inherited the rights with respect to these four lots. In addition to providing a letter identifying that person or persons, the Town respectfully requests that you provide backup documentation sufficient to confirm the basis for your belief that those individuals are the heirs and assigns holding the right to the lots in question.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Steve Ledoux  
Town Manager

## Allura Overstreet

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**From:** Mark Hald  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2008 7:04 PM  
**To:** Cemetery Department  
**Subject:** FW: Dying shrubs

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**From:** Ray Trudell [mailto:hvd84pmd@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2008 4:26 PM  
**To:** cemetary@acton-ma.gov; Clerk Department  
**Subject:** Dying shrubs

### Cemetary Commission:

My wife passed away in 2002 and is buried in section 14 lot 153 at Woodlawn Cemetary. Over the past several years all the shrubs/bushes that are behind the headstone have died or are on their last legs. This greatly diminishes the appearance of the lot, and I feel they should be replaced as soon as possible. I've been told that this request has been turned down by the Cemetary Commission.

I visit the cemetary several times a week and find the look of the area to be very disconcerting. The cost to replace a few bushes is not substantial. I'm quite sure that if the members of the cemetary commission had to visit the grave site of a loved one and were confronted with the same situation, they would see the reasonableness of this request. Please consider how the appearance of the area can help to console those who have lost and are grieving for a family member. I hope you will replace these shrubs as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Raymond D. Trudell  
173 Liberty Square Road  
Boroboro, MA 01719

5/22/2008

MARGARET A. GARLOW  
ONE BATES LANE  
WESTFORD, MA 01886

May 31, 2008

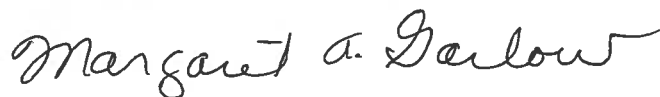
Commissioners  
Acton Cemetery  
472 Main Street,  
Acton, Ma 01724

Gentlemen:

While planting flowers in front of my husband's tombstone, we became aware, once again, of the condition of the shrubbery behind that row. It is in terrible condition and has been for an extended length of time. One bush is completely dead, while others have dead branches. This is in obvious contrast to all the other shrubbery in the area, and shows neglect and lack of equal attention.

I am asking that you address this matter as soon as possible and that new shrubbery replace the dead and dying ones. Your attention to this would be greatly appreciated

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret A. Garlow". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Margaret A. Garlow

..... 7 Joseph Lewis GREENE b: September 17, 1995 in Easton, Pennsylvania  
 ..... 7 Victoria Lynn GREENE b: March 16, 1998 in Boston Mass d: March 20, 1998 in Boston Mass  
 ..... 6 Susan Elizabeth PYE b: April 04, 1962 in Boston Mass  
 ..... 6 Roberta Charlotte PYE b: February 07, 1967 in Somerville, Mass  
 ..... +Thomas Peter JUROVICH m: April 22, 1995 in Somerville, Mass b: February 14, 1967 in Lavonia, Michigan  
 ..... 6 Eleanor Louise PYE b: February 08, 1971 in Somerville, Mass  
 ..... +Luigi Fernando ROSATONE m: December 27, 1997 in Woburn, Mass b: October 30, 1970 in Somerville, Mass  
 ..... 7 George Luigi ROSATONE b: May 18, 2000 in Cambridge, Mass  
 2 Mary FARRAR b: 1826 in Acton, Mass  
 .... +Francis VAN BUSKIRK m: August 09, 1850 in Acton, Mass. b: 1824 in Digby, Nova Scotia, Canada  
 2 Susanna Harris FARRAR b: Btn. 1826 - 1829 in Acton, Mass  
 → 2 ~~Henry FARRAR~~ b: 1834 in Acton, Mass d: October 18, 1898 in Lynn, Mass.  
 .... +Lydia Angeline WHEELER m: March 17, 1856 in Acton, Mass. b: March 22, 1836 in Acton, Mass d: September 24, 1874 in Acton, Mass  
 ... 3 Lilly Andelina FARRAR b: June 08, 1857 in Acton, Mass  
 ... 3 Edith Maude FARRAR b: February 13, 1862 in Acton, Mass  
 ... 3 Fred Lyman FARRAR b: July 13, 1865 in Acton, Mass  
 2 Sarah Elizabeth FARRAR b: August 01, 1837 in Acton, Mass. d: November 24, 1910 in Acton, Mass  
 .... +John Elliot RICH m: January 04, 1855 in Lexington, Mass. b: November 30, 1830 in Phillipston, Ma. d: July 12, 1900 in Malden, Mass.  
 → [2] Abel FARRAR, Jr. b: Btn. 1838 - 1839 in Acton, Mass d: 1911 in Acton, Mass  
 → +Delica A. BORDON m: November 06, 1866 in Concord, Mass. b: September 06, 1841 in Albury Vt. d: February 11, 1886 in Acton, Mass.  
 ... 3 Mary Delina FARRAR b: September 13, 1867 in Acton, Mass d: February 01, 1888 in Acton, Mass  
 3 Susanna Pauline FARRAR b: September 13, 1867 in Acton, Mass d: September 16, 1867 in Acton, Mass  
 1925 1970 1971 +Francis Borden FARRAR b: December 22, 1872 in Acton, Mass d: 1937  
 1970 1971 +Dora Jane WELCH m: 1894 in Acton, Mass. b: 1871 d: 1958  
 1970 1971 4 Evelyn FARRAR b: 1894 in Acton, Mass. d: 1958 *WATER TOWN MA*  
 1970 1971 4 Merritt L. FARRAR b: 1889 in Acton, Mass. d: 1955 *WATER TOWN MA*  
 1970 1971 4 Earl FARRAR b: 1896 in Acton, Mass. d: 1971 *WATER TOWN MA*  
 1970 1971 4 Raymond FARRAR b: 1896 in Acton, Mass. d: 1971 *WATER TOWN MA*  
 1970 1971 +Margery Hugeston SMITH d: 1940 *WATER TOWN MA*  
 1970 1971 5 Alden Raymond FARRAR b: 1934 *WATER TOWN MA*  
 1970 1971 6 Raymond Alden FARRAR b: 1970 *WATER TOWN MA*  
 1970 1971 5 Donald Simpson FARRAR b: 1925  
 1970 1971 5 Malvia FARRAR b: 1932 d: 1932 ? *WATER TOWN MA*  
 ... 3 Joseph Herman FARRAR b: September 29, 1875 in Acton, Mass. d: 1958 *WATER TOWN MA*  
 ..... +Mary BORDEN b: 1890 d: 1974 ? *WATER TOWN MA*  
 \*2nd Wife of [2] Abel FARRAR, Jr.:  
 .... +Martha P. BORDON m: March 08, 1887 in Acton, Mass. b: February 28, 1854 d: December 30, 1906  
 2 [3] Daniel H. FARRAR b: 1843 in Acton, Mass d: July 20, 1926 in Acton, Mass  
 .... +Susan Simon FLETCHER m: November 06, 1866 in Acton, Mass. b: Btn. 1846 - 1847 in Acton, Mass. d: 1907  
 \*2nd Wife of [3] Daniel H. FARRAR:  
 .... +Mary L. ACHORN m: Aft. 1907 b: 1858 d: 1925

**The Commonwealth Of Massachusetts**  
**City Of Lynn**  
**Office Of The City Clerk**

The following is a copy from the Records of Deaths, in said city:

Name HENRY FARRAR Date of Death OCTOBER 18, 1898  
Age 64 Years - Months - Days Sex MALE Color WHITE Condition MARRIED  
Name of Spouse ----- Maiden Name -----  
If married, divorced or widowed  
Disease or cause of Death ACCIDENT  
  
  
Residence 8 ATHERTON ST. LYNN, MA. Occupation ENGINEER  
Place of Death MYRTLE ST. LYNN, MA. Place of Birth SO. ACTON, MA.  
Name of Father ----- Place of Birth -----  
Name of Mother ----- Place of Birth -----  
Maiden Name  
Type and Place of Disposition SO. ACTION, MA.  
Date of Record OCTOBER 19, 1898  
By whom Registered JOSEPH W. ATTWILL City Clerk

I, Mary F. Audley, depose and say, that I hold the office of City Clerk, of the City of Lynn, in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts; that the Records of Births, Marriages and Deaths, in said City, are in my custody, and that the above is a true extract from the Records of Deaths in said City, as certified by me.



WITNESS my hand and the seal of the said City of Lynn,

Mary F Audley City Clerk  
this 30TH day of MAY, 20 08

NOTE: By a decision of the Commissioner of Pensions, December 6, 1864, the Certificates need not be sworn. The seal of a city is sufficient, without further attestation.



441226

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Middlesex, ss.

Probate Court

At a Probate Court held at Cambridge \_\_\_\_\_ in and for said County  
of Middlesex, on the ninth day of April  
in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-two.

On the petition of \_\_\_\_\_  
of Bedford in the County of Middlesex, \_\_\_\_\_  
praying that the instrument \_\_\_\_\_ therewith presented, purporting to be the last will and testa-  
ment — and ———— edict of \_\_\_\_\_  
late of Bedford in the County of Middlesex, \_\_\_\_\_  
deceased, may be proved and allowed, and that she be appointed executrix thereof  
without giving a surety on her bond; \_\_\_\_\_

and the heirs-at-law, next of kin and all other persons interested having been notified, according to  
the order of the Court, to appear and show cause, if any they have, against the same; \_\_\_\_\_

and no objections being made thereto, and it appearing that said instrument was the  
last will and testament of said deceased, and was legally executed, and that said  
testator was, at the time of making the same, of full age and sound mind, and that said  
petitioner was competent and suitable person to be  
appointed to said trust:

It is decreed that said instrument be approved and allowed as the last will  
and testament of said deceased, and that said petitioner \_\_\_\_\_

be appointed executrix thereof, first giving bond without sureties, for the due perform-  
ance of said trust.

Heene Judge of Probate Court.

DATED MAY 21 2008

I, the undersigned, HEREBY CERTIFY that I am the Register of the Probate and  
Family Court in the County of Middlesex, that such as I have Custody of the records of  
said Court, and I further Certify that the foregoing is a photographic copy of the decree  
of appointment of the fiduciary, that said fiduciary has given bond as required by the law  
and that said appointment remains in full force.

Witness, by my hand and seal of the Probate Court of the Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts, in Cambridge.

John R. Guonono  
REGISTER OF PROBATE

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT I, Raymond F. Farrar of Bedford, Middlesex County, declare this to be my last will and testament, hereby revoking all former wills and codicils made by me.

1.

I give, and bequeath outright to my son, Alden Farrar, of Bedford, County of Middlesex, Massachusetts, the following:

- a. The cemetery lot located in the Woodlawn Cemetery, Acton, Massachusetts being Lot #102.
- b. The cemetery lot located in the Puritan Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery, Peabody, Massachusetts, being Lot #317.
- c. The cemetery lots located in the Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett, Massachusetts.
- d. The sum of One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars cash.

2.

I give and bequeath outright to my son, Donald S. Farrar, of Randolph, Massachusetts, the sum of One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars cash.

3.

I give, devise and bequeath all the remainder of my property, whether real, personal or mixed, of whatever name and nature, of and to which I may die seized, possessed or in any way entitled, wherever situated and over which I may have any power of appointment, to the Trustee hereinafter named upon the Trust hereinafter set forth for the following uses and purposes:

1. The trustee is authorized to use the net income from the principal of the Trust annually or oftener in her discretion, for the support, education and maintenance of my grandchild, Raymond A. Farrar of Bedford, County of Middlesex, Massachusetts, during his minority. In addition, the trustee shall, from time to time, use such amounts of principal as she may deem necessary for the support, education and maintenance of my grandchild.

2. Upon my grandchild, Raymond A. Farrar attaining the age of twenty two years, said trust shall terminate and the remaining principal, together with any accumulated income, shall be distributed outright to my grandchild, Raymond A. Farrar.



**TOWN OF ACTON**  
Cemetery Department  
472 Main Street  
Acton, Massachusetts,  
01720  
(978) 264-9644  
cemetery@acton-ma.gov

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June 26, 2008

Alden Farrar  
77 Sandy Pond Rd  
Ayer, MA 01432

Dear Mr. Farrar,

The Cemetery Commissioners met on Wednesday June 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss your submission of paperwork defending your position as proprietor of Lot # 2 Section #3 Woodlawn Cemetery. After review of the documents the Commissioners have found that you are indeed the proprietor of Lot 122 Section 3 Woodlawn. However they find nothing to substantiate your claim, or that of your son Raymond, of ownership of the lot in question Lot 2 Section 3 Woodlawn. As such no further action will be taken as to the interment of Mr. John Walsh until such time that a document is submitted with specific information regarding the lot in question. If you have any further questions we would request that you submit them in writing to the Cemetery Commissioners 472 Main Street, Acton MA 01720. Thank you for your time and patience regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Allura L. Overstreet  
Cemetery Secretary

Cc: Barbara Walsh  
Minutes 6/25/08