

Board of Commissioners Edgartown Cemetery Department
Edgartown, Ma.

December 11, 2016

RE: Abolishing the Edgartown Cemetery Department

I address you today as a lifelong, concerned, resident of the Town of Edgartown.

I ask to go on record as being unequivocally and categorically opposed to the proposed plan of ending the Edgartown Cemetery Department as its own entity, and transferring it to the Edgartown Highway Department.

The Cemetery Department as it stands, is an organized, well run, well kept, very important part of our town.

The office of Selectmen has stated that, although the recent Wasserman report recommended abolishing the Cemetery Commission, they will not. They cited the fact that it is one of the oldest Commissions to sit in Edgartown.

To follow that logic, the Cemetery Department is certainly one of our oldest, if not the oldest, Department in our Town. It is a necessary, important, and continuously growing Department as evidenced by the large number of plots sold over the last few years and the physical expansion of the New Westside Cemetery. .

To suggest that ending it as it now exists and transferring it to the Highway Department, is not in this Towns best interest, and you all must know that. We have a well run, existing Department.

It makes little sense to add two additional grounds employees, and an administrative person or to add funeral home employees to the mix.

To say that it will be a good economical decision is inaccurate when we now have one Department head and two part time employees who keep the four Edgartown Cemeteries in excellent condition.

The Superintendent has kept all bookkeeping, record keeping up to date,

on time and accurate. Public relations skills have been exemplary. There have been no complaints from the public, the funeral home, In fact; on the contrary, this Department and Superintendent are the recipients of many wonderful compliments and words of appreciation for a job well done.

The residents of Edgartown have not been made aware of the facts surrounding the proposed decision to eliminate their Cemetery Department as it now exists. They need to have that information. I believe it to be of the utmost importance for our local media to obtain, and publically report on the facts surrounding this decision!

I can state, that as someone who has been intimately aware of the circumstances leading to this decision, that it is not based on any facts that would support this being in our Towns best interest.

It is my informed opinion that it is apparent this has come about, not because there has been any problem or complaint of the care or function of our current Edgartown Cemetery Department, but rather as a result of a long standing, unresolved, internal conflict. Indications are that this is a retaliatory, personal affront of an Edgartown Department head who stood up for our Department and for our Town. Facts will substantiate that.

I ask you to vote, "NO", and to not allow our Cemetery Department to be eliminated and transferred and incorporated into the Edgartown Highway Department!



Althea L Morgan
Edgartown, MA.

cc Vineyard Gazette
Martha's Vineyard Times