

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**OCTOBER 14, 2015**  
**WORK SESSION**

Members Present: David Parker, Nelson Almeida, David Andrade,  
Michael Brady, David Viera

Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime

Chairman Parker opened the meeting at 7 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

He announced this is a work session so there will be no public input.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a possible location for a cemetery in Seekonk. It is a requirement per Mass. General Laws to provide a final resting place for its citizens. The Town Clerk brought this up three years ago and every year after that. It was discussed but no action taken. Every time it is brought up there is an influx of people who want to purchase graves in Seekonk. Right now, there are 19 left. A year ago, there were almost 100. There are 1,548 Seekonk residents who are 70 to 100 years old and 3,500 residents are in their 60s. Available sites will probably be gone in six months. It is obvious it will not be done within six months. It is a critical situation.

Acting Superintendent of Public Works David Cabral looked at potential parcels and compiled a list of town-owned properties.

He looked at Fall River Avenue, behind the transfer station; Howland Street (deed restriction – school and recreation only); Burnside Avenue; Cynthia Road; and North Wheaton Avenue.

Mr. Cabral said he located 158 properties but some include conservation land. He reduced the list to 66 parcels of land. He excluded any property with a building on it. He went through the list.

He said wetlands property would have to have a 50 ft. setback as a buffer and flagged wetlands. That would be through Board of Health and Conservation.

Mr. Viera asked about the Mararian property.

Mr. Cabral said it is conservation land and could not be used for a cemetery.

He recommended the Board look at the properties with UR designation because nothing has to be done there.

He asked if the Board wanted to consider any sites that have a building on it.

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The Board looked at an overhead view of the sites to show the property lines and where the buildings sit.

Mr. Viera felt that town hall property would have the least impact. There could be an access road out to Arcade Avenue.

Mr. Brady added Pleasant Street.

Chairman Parker mentioned the Holy Ghost Cemetery on West River Street owned by a church in Central Falls.

Mr. Cadime noted he heard from representatives of that church. The Town would be able to use it as long as it is maintained by the Town.

Board members felt that would be worth looking into. It is a couple of acres.

Mr. Brady felt it is a really good option.

Chairman Parker said the \$235,000 perpetual care can only be used for maintenance of lots.

Mr. Viera said they might turn it over with the agreement that the Town would take care of it.

Mr. Brady suggested the Town could buy the lots from Holy Ghost and resell them for the same price.

Board members agreed on the following preference: (1) West River Street (Holy Ghost), (2) Town Hall property, and (3) Pleasant Street.

Mr. Cabral will continue to research and return to the Board in about three weeks.

Board members thanked Mr. Cabral for his assistance.

Mr. Almeida was happy that no matter where the cemetery goes it will not affect the neighborhood.

Mr. Viera said the Town owns a lot of land that should be put back on the tax rolls.

Chairman Parker added buildings, as well.

A motion was made by Mr. Almeida, seconded by Mr. Brady, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To adjourn at 8:07 p.m.

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The vote: Mr. Almeida – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Aye; Mr. Viera – Aye;  
Chairman Parker – Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

David Andrade, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary