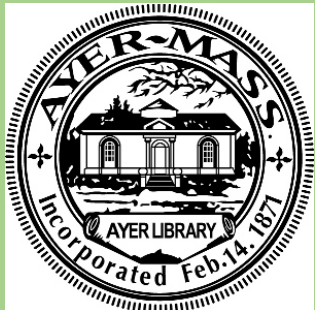
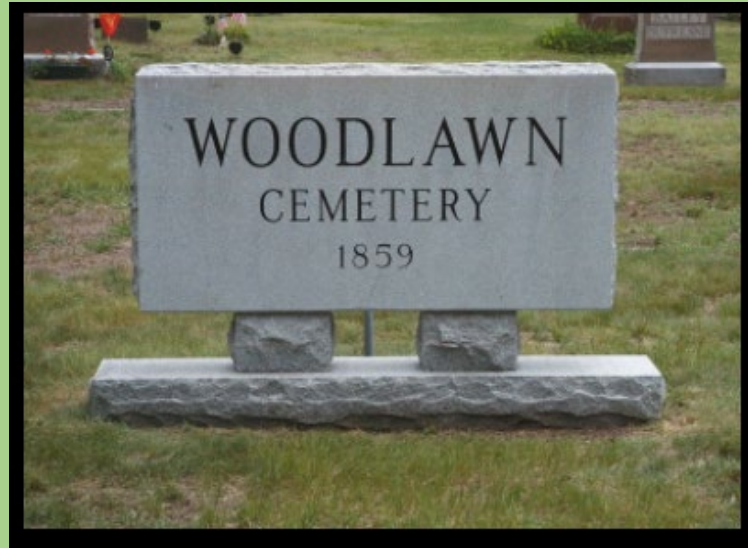


Article 27: Transfer of the Woodlawn Cemetery

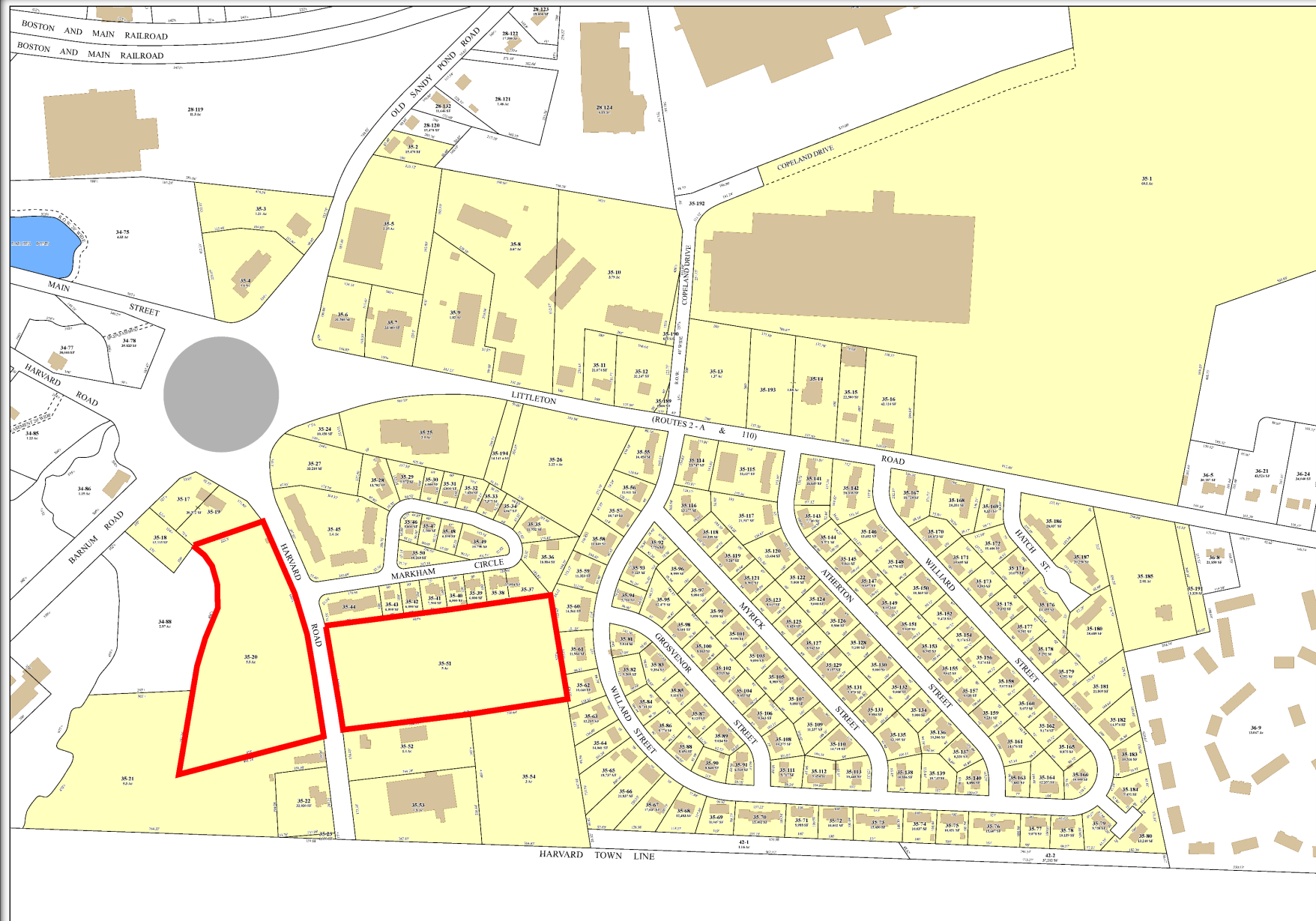


Town of Ayer
Annual Town Meeting
April 26, 2021

Background of the Woodlawn Cemetery

- 10.5 Acre Cemetery dating back to 1859
- Owned and operated by the Woodlawn Cemetery Company (a private board of trustees)
- Active burial cemetery; Veteran's burial section; and a historic cemetery





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REVISED TO: JANUARY 1, 2020

AYER, MA
01432 - COMMUNITY ID 019
ASSESSOR MAPS

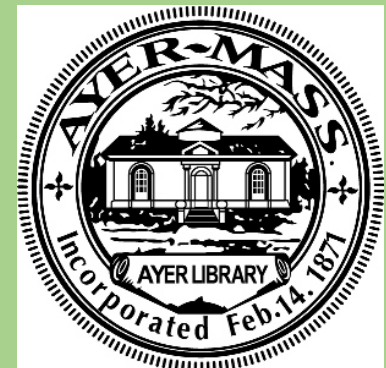
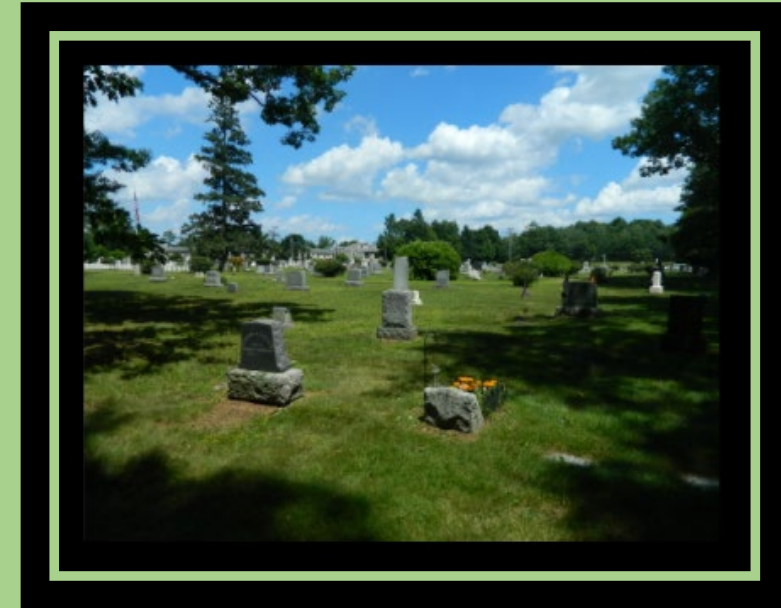
27	28	29
34	35	36
41	42	43

- Legend**
- Partial Boundaries
 - Exemptions
 - Traffic Island
 - Water
 - Buildings

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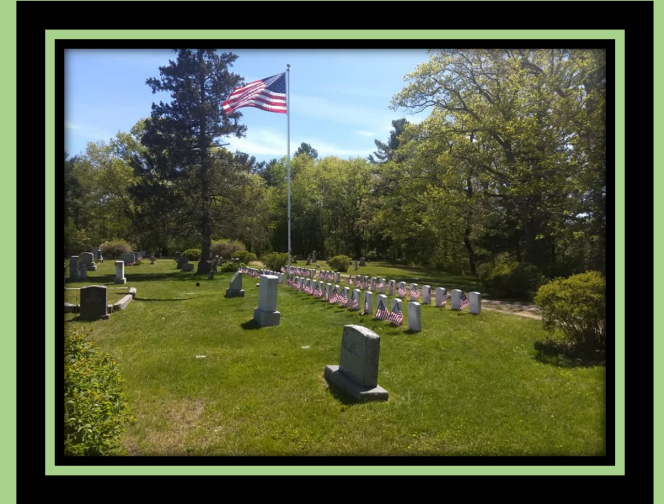
Why Transfer the Cemetery to the Town?

- The Woodlawn Trustees would like to transfer the ownership/operation of the Cemetery to the Town.
- Trustees approached the Town in 2019 prior to COVID-19 regarding the potential transfer.
- Trustees have done an excellent job over the years and would like to retire.
- Ongoing challenges in terms of the capacity and funding to operate the Cemetery.
- Moral, ethical, and legal obligation to be good stewards and custodians of this important and special Cemetery.



What Would the Transfer Consist Of?

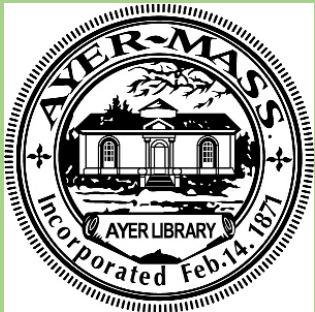
- Transfer of the 10.5-acre Cemetery to the Town. Town would assume legal ownership, operations, and maintenance of the Cemetery.
- Transfer of any personal property and equipment to the Town.
- Transfer of all Woodlawn Cemetery funds and perpetual care funds to the Town.
 - a. Approximately \$120,000 in funds
 - b. Receive \$1,000 a year for care of the National Cemetery component of the Cemetery
 - c. Town would continue to sell graves and burials.
- Town would assume the responsibility for the operations and maintenance of the Woodlawn Cemetery.
 - a. Woodlawn's estimated operating costs of approximately \$20,000 a year.



The Transfer Process: A Two-Step Process for Town Meeting

Step 1: The passage of Article 27 TONIGHT would authorize the Town to proceed with the all the appropriate due diligence required prior to the transfer.

Upon approval of Article 27, the Town would then proceed with its due diligence working with the Woodlawn Cemetery Company between May 2021 through September 2021. **Due diligence will include:**



- a. Assessment of existing conditions of the Woodlawn Cemetery (DPW)
- b. Review and audit of all Woodlawn Cemetery financials and funds (Finance Manager/Audit)
- c. Inventory and assessment of all personal property (DPW)
- d. Review and plan for transfer of all burial records to the Town (Town Clerk)
- e. Development of operational and maintenance plan for the Cemetery (DPW)
- f. Development of Cemetery operating budget for FY 2023 (DPW/Finance Manager/Town Manager)
- g. Drafting of all legally required transfer documents and due diligence (Town Counsel/Town Manager)

Step 2: A report and formal Warrant Article to complete the transfer which would include the Town Meeting adoption of the appropriate provisions of the Cemetery Statute would be presented at the Fall Special Town Meeting on October 25, 2021.