

SALEM MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Roy E. Sorenson - *Director*

ENGINEERING ♦ PUBLIC WORKS ♦ UTILITIES



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MEMORANDUM

Date: September 27, 2018

To: Board of Selectmen

From: Roy E. Sorenson, Municipal Services Director

Thru: Chris Dillon, Town Manager

RE: Pine Grove Cemetery Master Plan

Recommendation:

That the Board of Selectmen adopt the Pine Grove Cemetery Master Plan as presented by the LA Group for the Town of Salem.

Discussion:

As you know Pine Grove Cemetery is the Town's largest active burial ground. In August 2015 it was brought to the attention of the BOS that the cemetery was running out of space and the Town should look at alternative methods for burials/cremations currently not applicable to the existing model. Because of this the BOS endorsed funding and directed Municipal Services to procure a consultant and create a master plan for both immediate and future needs. The LA Group was chosen through an RFQ process and has been working over the past year developing the plan which culminated and was presented for review during the workshop on July 9th of this year.

Pine Grove has been lacking in formal planning and has been developed in pieces over time. The objective of the master plan was to determine the most feasible and sustainable methods and applications for burials that most fit the town's goals. The LA Group has designed a master plan that can be implemented in phases allowing improvements and expansions all which improve the efficiency of operations and maintenance. The plan as presented will extend the operational lifespan an estimated 16 to 30 years. It also introduces modern applications through cremation gardens and columbaria that will help sustain future needs.

I look forward to the discussion and any comments you may have.

Sincerely,

Roy E. Sorenson