

CEMETERY REFERENDUM HANDOUT

Question: “Shall the town of Weston refer a proposal to construct a non-denominational municipal cemetery to the Planning and Zoning Commission and appropriate up to \$30,000 for the required documentation?”

The Weston Cemetery Committee has developed a plan to build a non-denominational town cemetery on two acres of town owned property at the end of Upper Parish Drive. The two acres is part of a larger 85 acre parcel owned by the town, known as the Fromson-Strassler property. The proposed plan calls for a maximum of 800 gravesites in a rural, wooded setting, with a one-way travel lane, about seven parking spaces and an entry gateway.

By state law, certain town improvements and uses of land must be referred to the Weston Planning and Zoning Commission for an 8-24 review, before those projects can be carried out by the town. The proposed cemetery is one such project. The Commission, in turn, is required to provide either a favorable or unfavorable report to the Board of Selectmen.

The Commission has told the Board of Selectmen that the following required documentation must be submitted for its review of the proposed cemetery: A Class a-2 property survey showing all improvements for the proposed cemetery; fully developed plans showing the proposed density of gravesites, the layout of paths, parking lots, structures and driveways; information on the proposed access; an engineering study of the soils ; and engineering data on any change in the rate and direction of stormwater runoff.

The cost for the town to prepare the required documentation at this time is estimated to be up to \$30,000. The sum is not insignificant and the desire of the town’s residents to support this project is uncertain. Therefore, the Board of Selectmen is referring this matter to the residents for a referendum vote.

If the majority votes “no”, the Board of Selectmen will not pursue this project.

If the majority votes “yes”, the Board of Selectmen will refer an application with the required documents to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Assuming the Planning and Zoning Commission issues a favorable report, the residents will be asked to vote again, at a Town Meeting, to determine if the town should utilize town property and town funds to create a municipal cemetery.