

Annual Town Meeting

March 2019

ARTICLE 6

APPROPRIATE FOR CREMATION FACILITY AT
WESTVIEW CEMETERY (*Citizen Article*)

Dinesh Patel, MD

And Other Petitioners



ARTICLE 6: APPROPRIATE FOR CREMATION FACILITY AT WESTVIEW CEMETERY

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for design, engineering and architectural services including site work, value engineering, and cost estimating to construct a new

Cremation Facility at the Westview Cemetery and for the payment of all other costs incidental or related thereto; determine whether the money will be provided by the tax levy, by transfer from other available funds, by borrowing, or by any combination of these methods; or act in any other manner in relation thereto.

(Inserted by Dinesh Patel and 9 or more registered voters)

FUNDS REQUESTED: unknown at press time

DESCRIPTION: These funds will permit the design and construction work of a new crematorium

at the Westview Cemetery.

Article 6 Highlights

1. More Americans Are Choosing Cremation

- 50 % today → 70% in 2030

2. Crematory Regulations in Massachusetts

- DEP & DPH

3. Cremation Customs

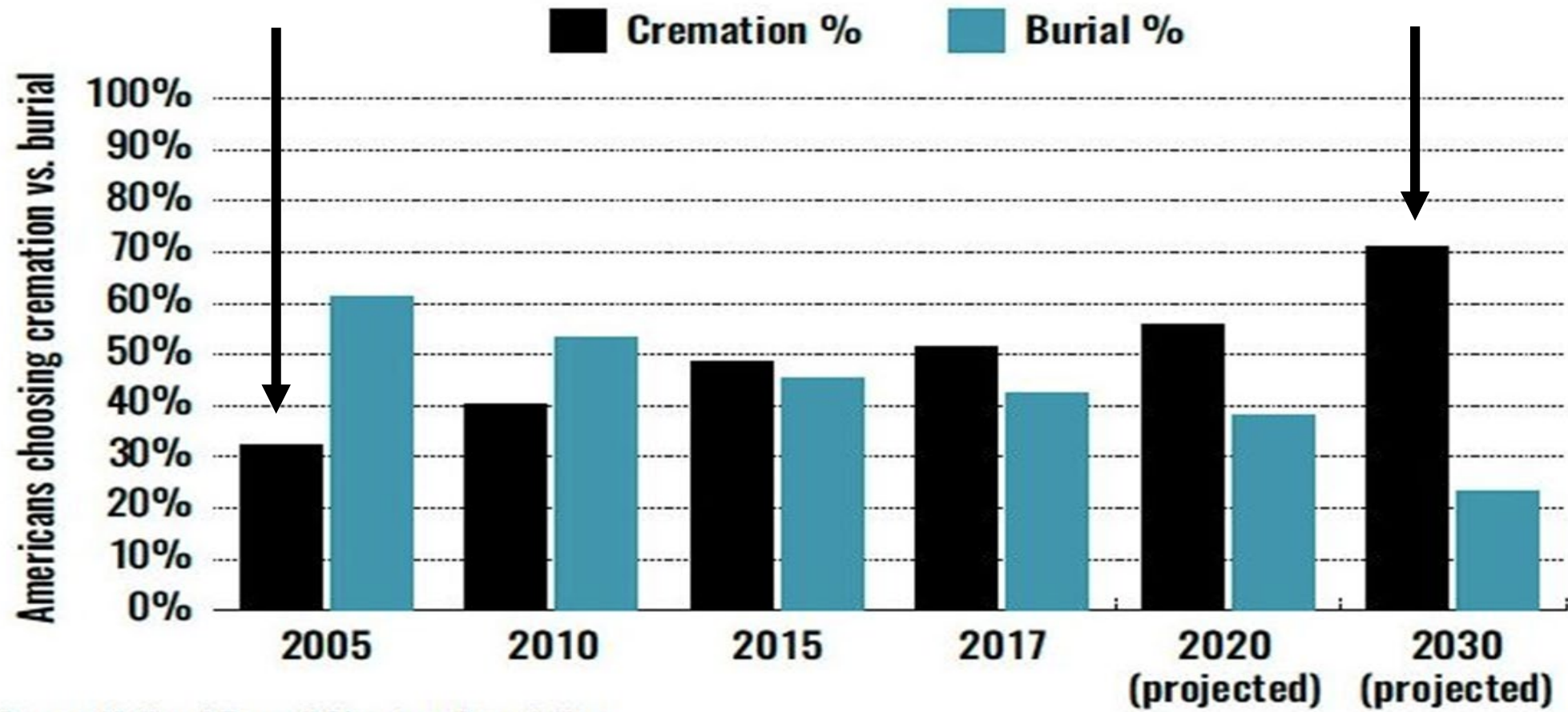
- Remote vs. Witness

4. Why Crematory in Lexington?

- Demographic Shift & Faith Practices

More Americans Are Choosing Cremation

The rate of cremation surpassed that of burial in 2015, according to a 2016 report from the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA), underscoring a major shift in the way Americans are caring for dead loved ones. The trend is only expected to continue going forward, according to NFDA projections.



Source: National Funeral Directors Association

Why Cremation is Becoming More Popular



No longer just an alternative, cremation is becoming the preferred choice.

25%

Twenty years ago

Cost savings

growing acceptance of cremation
flexible memorialization options

50%
today

Explains why the cremation rates have grown from 25% to 50% in less than 20 years.

Source: Cremation Association of North America

12

Crematory Regulations in Massachusetts

1. Environmental Safeguards

a) Mandatory Certifications

i. Department of Public Health

M.G.L. Ch. 144 sec. 9

ii. Department of Environmental Protection

310 CMR 7.00

Cremation Customs

- Practices of some cultures do not require witnessing the start of cremation process, while some Asian cultures need to witness
- **Typical Sequence**
 - Body must be cremated upon death
 - Cremation as soon as possible (48 hours)
 - Funeral service
 - Witnessing the start of cremation is required by the family to set the soul free
 - Grieving together with friends back home

Why Crematory in Lexington?

- **Legacy Needs:** Lexington residents should have the opportunity to have last rites in their own town
- **Demographic shift in Lexington**
 - Currently 27% Asian by population
 - 88% increase in Asian residents in the last decade
- **Fulfills inclusiveness and diversity objectives**
- **Future is in Cremation Services:** Burials are decreasing in popularity
- **Doing together with the WV Building (20g) will save substantial funds**

Conclusion

- Cremation...
 - Trend is increasing;
 - Cost is low;
- Burial...
 - Trend is decreasing;
 - Cost is increasing;
- Respects the last rites of our diverse community;
- And, done together with a cemetery, will reduce overall cost

Article 6: Appropriate for Cremation Facility at Westview Cemetery (Citizen Article)

Revised Motion:

That this article be indefinitely postponed.

Thank You

- Ad Hoc Crematory Study Committee
 - Selectmen
 - Town Officers
 - Town Members
- Citizens of the Town of Lexington
 - Citizen Petitioners

Our Town

