

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR MAY 25, 2016 MEETING  
6:30 P.M., BARRE TOWN MUNICIPAL OFFICE

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CALL TO ORDER

Call to order at the town offices at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commission members: Alan Garceau, Norman Coates, Merle Miller, Robert Benoit, and Dwight Harrington attended. Town Manager Carl Rogers, and sexton Dwight Coffrin also attended.

AGENDA CHANGES - ADDITIONS

Details: One deed and four monuments/markers to consider.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Coates made a motion, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2016 meeting as written. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT

Town Manager Rogers has sent out an email identifying \$518.50 moved from the advertising account to other supplies as a bill from Carroll Concrete. He addressed other items from the previous budget report and said the issues had been taken care of with the exception of some revenue questions.

RECEIVE GUESTS

Linda Rochon: Ms. Rochon asked the commission about the status of her inquiry about the two grave lot she had received from her mother and located in Wilson Cemetery, Lot 323, Section Old Yard 3. She had left the commission with several documents. Mr. Harrington had researched the documents as they related to the deeds found in the town clerk's office and found the chain of title to Ms. Rochon as correct, Mr. Rogers also came to the same conclusion. The remaining issue concerned the probing of the lots by Mr. Coffrin to determine if the open lots did not have any burials in them already. He reported that he could not conclusively tell as he struck objects throughout the lot area and could not determine if he had hit a casket or a boulder. This portion of Wilson Cemetery does have a large number of boulders present. Mr. Coffrin would make one more attempt to verify the lot and contact the Rochon family.

Mr. Rogers spoke to the lot card kept in the sexton's index card file. The card showed the original six grave lot and contains the order of burials, read right to left: Hugh Lawson, Ada Lawson, open grave, Natalie Stevens, Claude Stevens, open grave. This configuration would leave the two remaining graves given to Ms. Rochon as two separate graves, one on the side of Lawson, the other on the side of Stevens and not two contiguous lots. Apparently, when the Stevens family owned four of the six lots, perhaps they chose to be buried in the center two lots leaving the two outside edge lots open.

Whitney Maxfield: Mr. Maxfield came to the meeting as a representative of the Flags for Veterans organization. He asked if his organization could place a grass marker at the West Hill Cemetery to honor Enos Town, Jr. as a veteran of the War of 1812. Enos, Sr. is in the family lot and currently has a flag standard as the veteran even though he passed away in 1813, a year before the service of Enos Town is documented. Enos, Jr's. wife is in the West Hill Cemetery, Mr. Maxfield would locate the grass marker next to the wife's stone. Mrs. Town is shown as stone 18 on the Bob Murphy inventory of stones at West Hill. Mr. Maxfield furnished a copy of Murphy's map and the words for the proposed grass marker. Mr. Garceau made a motion to allow the stone to be manufactured and placed at West Hill Cemetery next to Mr. Town's wife. Mr. Coates seconded the motion and with no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote. The commission would waive the fee to set the grass marker per Appendix 1 of the Rules and Regulations of the Town of Barre Cemeteries, adopted 30 October 2015.

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SEXTON REPORT

Mr. Rogers gave the sexton's report. The grounds crew had been mowing and trimming the cemeteries in anticipation of the upcoming Memorial Day holiday. They had also cleaned up all the dead leaves from the shrubbery at the columbaria area. Mr. Coffrin identified an old maple tree at Wilson Cemetery, about 1/4 dead, entangled in the power lines. He would be contacting Green Mountain Power to have the tree limbed to protect the wires. (Later discussion included the topic of Green Mountain Power dropping the entire tree.)

Mr. Coffrin floated the idea that the sexton have a small number of funerary urns on hand for sale to the public. He indicated he had three enquiries for urns this spring from individuals wanting to transfer cremains from cardboard containers to the permanent urns. The urns he would keep are a hard plastic material resembling marble or granite, this material would meet the requirements of the cemetery rules and regulations. Mr. Coffrin recommended having six to ten available, all of the same style but perhaps different colors. He would research the current price and present his findings at the next commission meeting.

A cemetery contractor recently cleaned a stone in a Miller lot and burned much of the surrounding grass as well as leaving a trail of burnt grass from the road to the stone. Mr. Coffrin will be contacting the contractor concerning this incident.

APPROVAL OF DEEDS AND MONUMENTS

- A. Deeds:
  - 1. Suzane M. Trecartin, Christopher F. Locarno, Craig L. Locarno; Lot 173, 10x8, Section New B, Wilson
  
- B. Niche reservation: none this meeting.
  
- C. Monuments:
  - 1. Grass marker for Maurice Jones, Lot 99-A, Section New A, Wilson
  - 2. Two grass markers for Thomas W. Blakeney and Evangeline Bisson Blakeney, Lot 55, Section G, Wilson
  - 3. Monument, Donald & Eleanor Denko and Dawn M. St. John; Lot 170, New B, Wilson
  - 4. Monument, Trecartin, Lot 173, New B, Wilson. The commission did not approve this monument and returned the drawing to the owner as the design did not meet the requirements of the cemetery rules and regulations. The drawing proposed a base of 4" thick rather than the required 8" minimum thickness.
  
- D. Niche covers: none this meeting

OLD BUSINESS

- A. The Public Works Director and Town Manager Rogers analyzed the driveway pavement at Wilson Cemetery where it had been damaged during the winter or spring in the vicinity of the vault. They decided to remove the pavement and build a base of 12" of gravel, the base would remain uncovered through the next winter season. The commission would need to budget an amount for new paving for at least two sections of driveway, one of 100', the other of 80', but it may be advantageous to pave the entire stretch of driveway instead of leaving a length of old pavement between two lengths of new pavement.

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Additionally, the commission should investigate the closure of more driveways over the winter season using cables or chains. The only area to be left accessible would be the vault. Normally, piles of plowed snow limit the access to the cemetery; this past winter did not produce enough snow for this to happen.

- B. The issues of Low 76w in Wilson Cemetery, North Section have been resolved.
- C. An email from zoning administrator Chris Violette stated that zoning setbacks are not applied to the town cemeteries.
- D. Mr. Rogers contacted John LePage, owner of the land adjacent to the West Section of the Maplewood cemetery concerning poplar trees along the shared property line. Mr. LePage agreed to take down a large poplar on the town's side of the line and a few more on his side. The town would furnish two employees to assist Mr. LePage in getting the trees removed from the property. The work has been tentatively scheduled for some time in the month of June.
- E. The shop drawing for the Howe marker approved by the commission during the winter months has been delivered to Mr. Coffrin.
- F. Discussions concerning the status of Maplewood lots of Paul Mascitti, Lots 87e and 88, Section North-West, and Raymond Jennett, Lot B88, continued. A card and a deed can be found for Jennett, but the lot location does not appear on the maps. Cards, but no deeds can be found for Mascitti, the lot locations do not appear on the maps. Mr. Benoit would attempt to contact the Mascitti family, Mr. Coffrin would invite the Jennetts to meet in the cemetery to finalize the location of their lot and have the location added to the schematics.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. During the budget committee work, officials conducted a review of the amount of money being set aside from the sale of each columbaria niche and the current cost of a columbaria structure. The current cost is approximately \$18,000. Each niche sale sets aside \$520, sales of 48 niches, the number that would cause the third columbaria unit to be built, would generate \$24,960. With 28 niches sold, 20 more needed, the program is still on target. No further actions are required.

AROUND THE TABLE DISCUSSIONS

- A. Mr. Benoit inquired about the Sherman monument located off Sherman Drive near Vermont Route 63. The monument is located in a private cemetery and not owned by the town.
- B. Mr. Rogers discussed an item of general cemetery interest. He said the recently deceased Gordon Booth had a headstone at his house belonging to a woman named Scott. She died in the late 1700s and is buried near a farm pond in an area where Benoit is developing. The farm pond now has a fountain feature and the property has a new driveway and new landscaping. The developers realize there is a grave near the pond and have not disturbed it. No one knew for sure how the headstone ended up in Mr. Booth's possession.

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NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for: 22 June 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Place: Room 3, Barre Town Municipal Office, Websterville.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Garceau made a motion, seconded by Mr. Coates, to adjourn. The motion carried on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted for Alan Garceau, Chairman  
by Dwight D. Harrington, recorder