

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR JULY 23, 2014 MEETING
AT 6:30 P.M. AT THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the commission began at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commission members: Alan Garceau, Robert Pellon, Norman Coates, Merle Miller, and Dwight Harrington attended. Town Manager Carl Rogers and sexton Tim Brick attended as well.

AGENDA CHANGES - ADDITIONS

At the request of the chair, Mr. Coates made a motion to add a discussion on a cemetery pamphlet to the agenda, the motion seconded by Mr. Pellon. On a voice vote, the topic was added in the new business portion of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Coates, seconded by Mr. Pellon to accept the minutes of the commission meeting held 25 June 2014 as written. A short discussion concerning some of the figures as written in the budget report section of the minutes, and with no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT

Town Manager Rogers noted the current budget period was less than a month old and there was not much information he could present at this meeting.

RECEIVE GUESTS

Douglas and Gail Lawson attended the meeting to discuss the issue of their monument not meeting the regulations. The commission had denied the design at the June 2014 meeting. In early July, Mr. Lawson had sent an email explaining the situation, each commission member received a copy during the month. The Lawsons explained they had worked with the former sexton last year and on his assurance, had their monument made up according to the shop drawings. At no time did they receive any dimensional requirements for the monument. This year, the current sexton informed them they would have to get commission approval to place the monument in the cemetery, at that time the commission denied the request based on the monument being too large for the 4 – foot wide lot.

On the Monday before this meeting, the Lawsons met with Mr. Brick in the cemetery and visited various lots with the same bench – type monuments they proposed already erected on them. They looked at some placed on similar 4 – foot wide lots. Some of these benches exceeded the 2/3 lot width requirements generally enforced by the commission. Mr. Garceau pointed out that some of the benches could be from the time period before the current standards came into use.

The current lotting map for Section G showed that lot 77d, immediately adjacent to the Lawson's lot 77e is empty. Mr. Brick suggested cutting the lot in half and allowing the Lawsons to place their monument as if they had a 6 – foot wide lot, their monument would then meet the requirements. By eliminating 77d, Andrews, owner of lot 77c would also have the space to put in corner posts. In general, this area has space constraints due to the number of single graves sited adjacent to each other. The placement of the Lawson monument would then fall in line with other monuments in the area. Additionally, the Lawsons would remain owners of the lot they had chosen, Mr. Lawson's sister owns the lot immediately to the south of lot 77e. Other possible solutions included subdividing larger lots available in the same general area of Section G.

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As the best solution appeared to be the elimination of lot 77d, Mr. Garceau proposed a motion to allow an overlap onto 77d from 77e, having the sexton mark the lotting map to show 77d as not for sale, and to allow the Lawsons to erect their monument as manufactured. Mr. Pellon seconded the motion. During further discussions, Mr. Miller pointed out the commission would have to come up with a way to ensure the information concerning monument sizes would be explained to all potential lot owners. Without further discussions, the motion passed on a voice vote. Mr. Brick would annotate the map and meet with the Lawsons to arrange for the setting of the monument.

SEXTON REPORT

Mr. Brick reported there would be a service at the cemetery this Friday. The crew had also poured two foundations, set the Wolfe monument, and awaited the placement of the Gaudette monument. The partially dead tree in the mausoleum area has been taken down, but the stump remains awaiting removal at a later date. The crew had been doing regular maintenance throughout the month and had "stood up" two old gravestones that had fallen over. The stones had foundations that had sunk deep into the ground, the crew set the stones in the soil as they had previously been placed. Mr. Randy Pickel of Randy Pickel's Tree Service furnished an estimate of \$700 to trim the tops of the cedar hedge along the north edge of the north section near the maintenance garage.

APPROVAL OF DEEDS AND MONUMENTS

- A. Deeds: None this meeting.
- B. Niche reservation: None this meeting.
- C. Monuments: None this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Mr. Harrington gave an update on the data collection for the schematic maps. Additionally, he led a discussion into some of the scenarios that could lead to inaccuracies in the cemetery historical records. The situations included pauper funerals, private sales of lots without involving the town, lots bought back by the town without map updates, lots repossessed for non-payment without map updates, and other similar events. These transactions might not involve the sexton or the commission and lead to missed changes in the records.
- B. The Commission continued its review of the existing cemetery rules under the guidance of Mr. Miller. They reviewed sections 14 through 18 and made several word and sentence changes within those sections. The commission deleted some sentences that did not apply to current cemetery operations and rearranged paragraphs to help the flow of information flow in a more logical manner. At some point, more discussion will be needed on the requirements outlined for the shutters on the columbaria niches concerning designs, symbols, and the review of design submittals by the commission. The commission will review section 19 through the end of the regulations for the August meeting.
- C. Sexton Brick has identified five broken monuments that will be replaced and has sent the information to Mr. Martel for manufacture of the replacement markers.

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NEW BUSINESS

A. Per earlier discussions, Mr. Harrington presented a draft tri-fold pamphlet that might be handed out to all potential lot purchasers by the sexton. He asked members of the commission as well as the sexton and town manager to review the document and bring suggestions for content to the next meeting. Sexton Brick would concentrate on the steps involved in buying a lot or niche including the process of monument review and approval by the commission. Other suggestions would be made concerning what other documents, such as a price list or monument size standards would accompany the pamphlet.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for: 27 August 2014 at 6:30 p.m.
Place: Town Offices in Websterville

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion by Mr. Coates to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Miller. With no further discussion, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Dwight D. Harrington, Chairman