

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES FOR JUNE 24, 2015 MEETING
AT 5:30 AT MAPLEWOOD CEMETERY and
AT 6:45 P.M. AT THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the commission began at Maplewood Cemetery at 5:30 p.m.
Call to order at the town offices at 6:45 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commission members: Merle Miller, Alan Garceau, and Dwight Harrington attended. Town Manager Carl Rogers and sexton Dwight Coffrin attended as well. Commissioner Norman Coates joined the meeting at the town offices.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Several commission members, the town manager, and sexton met at the Maplewood Cemetery to discuss layout options within the undeveloped portions of the cemetery. They discussed the possibilities of using the area fronted on Farwell Street in the South 2 section for private columbaria structures. The concept would use smaller lots interspersed among full sized burial lots and allow for landscaping. A pedestrian pathway would link a 10 foot wide gate on Pine Hill Road to another undeveloped portion of the cemetery identified as North 2, also fronting on Farwell Street. The North 2 section could be developed as traditional burial lots, the layout and monument for these new lots would be oriented such that the monuments would face Farwell Street. The design will be laid out in an uphill direction and include portions of section North 1. A second pedestrian pathway would link the north and south sections.

AGENDA CHANGES - ADDITIONS

None this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Coates, seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the minutes of the commission meeting held 27 May 2015 as written. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT

None required at this meeting.

RECEIVE GUESTS

None this meeting.

SEXTON REPORT

Sexton Coffrin reported that in general, cemetery maintenance is proceeding well although the recent rains have effected mowing. He also received a phone call from a lot owner requesting that pesticide be sprayed throughout the cemetery, something that cannot be done. The cemetery work crew will be pouring five more foundations in the coming week.

Mr. Henri Dessereau has offered to lend his sandblasting equipment to the town in order for the cemetery crew to clean and paint the flag pole at Wilson Cemetery. Mr. Dessereau will instruct the crew in the proper operation of the machinery, the town will furnish the sand. The Cemetery Commission wishes to thank Mr. Dessereau for his generous donation of his time and equipment.

Mr. Dennis Beaudin will be moving the Kriesz monument from its current location to a new foundation. The move became necessary when a previously unknown burial was discovered in a lot owned by Mrs. Relation, daughter of Mrs. Kriesz. Mrs. Relation chose another lot in the Wilson Cemetery and the town made the swap without charge. The town will also absorb the cost of the foundation and the Kriesz stone will be moved.

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APPROVAL OF DEEDS AND MONUMENTS

- A. Deeds: Sharon Hersey, Wilson, New A, Lot 73, 10x8
- B. Niche reservation: Clifford and Susan MacAskill, Col. 4, Side B, Niche 7
- C. Monuments: Monument for Suzanne Stone, Wilson, New A, Lot 155
Monument for Stephen MacAskill, Wilson, New B.
Additions to the back of the Clarence and Arlene Compo stone.
The approval covers the monument work, it is understood that issues within the Compo family might still exist.
The commission rejected the niche cover proposed for Ronald R. Abare as it did not meet requirements as set out in the cemetery rules for lettering, symbolism, and use of color.

OLD BUSINESS (continued)

- B. Mr. Coffrin provided a list of price increases for cemetery labor and materials as well as burial lots and columbaria niches. After a general discussion and question and answer session, Mr. Garceau made a motion to proceed with the proposed price increases in services and materials and recommend that the price increases for lots and niches be approved by the select board with an effective date of July 1, 2015. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and with no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote. Town Manager Rogers will put the issue on the select board calendar for their next meeting, if the board approves, the increases will go into effect. Any on-going negotiations with previously quoted prices will be honored as quoted.
- C. Town attorney Michael Monte has reviewed the revised work order as proposed by Sexton Coffrin. The order would include a requirement that memorial dealers guarantee their monuments. Mr. Miller suggested adding a check mark box to signify the cemetery rules had been received and reviewed concerning monuments. He also wanted to make it clear that the commission would only become involved in situations where no known heirs of the lot owners could be found and the conditions on the lot require some kind of action. Mr. Rogers noted the form could be used as a coversheet to monument shop drawings submitted to the commission for approval as specified in the rules. Mr. Coffrin reiterated that the work form would provide a valuable source of useful information. The form would also be a tracking source should a defect in a monument stone be found that would need repair. Mr. Coffrin will work with Mr. Monte to generate a final draft of the work order for commission consideration.
- D. Mr. Garceau is working with Mr. Martel of GIV concerning the recommended way to set the replacement monuments already delivered. More information will be available at the July commission meeting.
- E. Mr. Coffrin continues to pursue grant money for the painting of the fence at Maplewood Cemetery. He found one possible source and Mr. Miller will assist him in further pursuit of the grant. As for the painting work, the town placed an ad in the local newspaper to solicit contractor interest in painting the fence but got no replies. Mr. Beaudin and Mr. Dessereau had no interest in doing the work nor did Rock of Ages. The Rock of Ages staff referred Mr. Coffrin to the Granite Museum as a possible source of grant money. As there is no general interest in the project, the town will negotiate directly with Mr. Matt Peake to do the work rather than generate drawings and specifications for a competitive bid.

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- F. Mr. Harrington discussed the list of broken monuments found throughout the town cemeteries. A general review of the list allowed some of the previously proposed monuments to be dropped from the list and a search in the historic portions of the cemetery will allow others to be added. The list will be finalized by Mr. Harrington for the July meeting. Mr. Garceau will assist and verify the conditions of the monuments chosen as the final list is generated.
- G. Elections of officers. Mr. Harrington told the commission he would not be willing to serve as commission chair for the next fiscal year. Mr. Coates nominated Mr. Garceau for the chair and Mr. Miller for vice chair. Mr. Garceau seconded Mr. Miller's nomination and Mr. Miller seconded Mr. Garceau's. The candidates were elected on a voice vote:
Cemetery Commission, Fiscal Year 2016:
Chairman: Alan Garceau
Vice Chairman: Merle Miller
Recorder: Dwight Harrington

NEW BUSINESS

- A. The commission discussed the recent resignation of Robie Pellon from the cemetery commission. Mr. Pellon served as a volunteer member of the commission for more than 25 years, longer than any of the current members. The commission has requested the town generate a letter of appreciation to honor Mr. Pellon's service to the town, the commission members will sign the letter prior to its delivery to him.

AROUND THE TABLE DISCUSSIONS

The commission discussed cleanup of the landscaping at Maplewood Cemetery including the removal or trimming of lilac bushes overgrowing the Everett graves, some of the oldest in the cemetery. A red maple is also in need of attention, the ground around the tree will be investigated for monuments or other cemetery features. Brush will be removed from the tree base and if the tree is unhealthy, it will be removed as well. There is also a dead tree hanging over the westerly side of the cemetery to be removed. Commission members discussed the possibility of doing some volunteer brush cleaning to expose the granite post fence along two sides of the cemetery

Mr. Rogers told the commission members that Mr. Pellon's seat had been advertised and they received one response. The letter came from Mr. William Wolfe, the select board will fill the seat in the very near future.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for: 22 July 2015 at 6:30 p.m.
Place: Town Offices in Websterville.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion by Mr. Coates to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Garceau. With no further discussion, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Dwight D. Harrington, Chairman