

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 23, 2015 MEETING
6:30 P.M., BARRE TOWN MUNICIPAL OFFICE

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, and Dwight Harrington attended. Town Manager Carl Rogers, assistant Elaine Wang, and sexton Dwight Coffrin also attended.

AGENDA CHANGES - ADDITIONS

Motion by Mr. Harrington to discuss removal of brush at Maplewood Cemetery, second by Mr. Garceau. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a voice vote.

Motion by Mr. Garceau to discuss changing the lot number on the Russell and Susan Slora lot at Maplewood Cemetery, second by Mr. Coates. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a voice vote.

Motion by Mr. Coates for the addition of the Hedges lot and Fuller monument, second by Mr. Garceau. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a voice vote.

Motion by Mr. Coates to move discussion of Old Business item "F", Maplewood Cemetery Fence within the agenda to the spot just before Approval of Minutes, second by Mr. Harrington. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

F. FENCE

Ms. Elaine Wang brought several items for discussion concerning the grant application she has been preparing for the repair of the cemetery fence at Maplewood Cemetery. The items included the color of the fence, which will be black; and the number of recent lot sales. The gateway will have to be taken down temporarily and the letters removed during the sandblasting and painting of the arch. During the sandblasting process, the sexton would inspect for damaged or loose parts and consider making repairs. Mr. Garceau stated he would gain the support for the project from the Flags For Veterans organization at the next meeting of that group.

The fence has not been sandblasted and painted for approximately 15 years; perhaps Mr. LePage would be the last person to have done the work. Ms. Wang suggested the commission develop a plan to inspect and touch up the fence more often in the future to extend the life of the fence after restoration, Mr. Coffin would develop the plan and the commission would adopt it.

The commission and town manager determined the Barre Town Selectboard would review and have approval authority over the final version of the grant application to be submitted. Mr. Garceau made a motion for the cemetery commission to support the grant and support the project to repair the fence at the Maplewood Cemetery, Mr. Coates seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Coates made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harrington, to approve the minutes of the August 26 meeting as written. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT

None this month.

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RECEIVE GUESTS

None this meeting.

SEXTON REPORT

Mr. Coffrin reported his crew had installed two foundations related to the Relation family. He also discussed the trimming of hedges and insect control at Wilson. The recent dry weather has made it necessary to control grubs in the soil and mentioned an increase in the budget for more control measures would be needed for next year. The grounds destroyed by birds and rodents digging up grubs at Maplewood will need to be repaired with topsoil and seed. Mr. Coffrin recommended the planting of a new privet hedge on the north edge of the cemetery at the convenience store end. He also discussed adding mulch around the columbaria area, perhaps using commercial mulch, grindings from the lawn waste area, or a combination of both. Due to warm weather, the grass is growing and the crew is still mowing lawns. A suggestion was made by Mr. Coates to remove the grape vines from the cedar hedge near the columbaria.

APPROVAL OF DEEDS AND MONUMENTS

- A. Deeds: Steve Hedges, Wilson, Section New A, Lot 446-B, 10' x 8'
- B. Niche reservation: None this meeting
- C. Monuments: Douglas Fuller, Maplewood, Section North 1, Lot 94a
- D. Niche covers: None this meeting

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Mr. Harrington briefed the commission that the process of updating the records is an on-going process and proceeding as expected.
- B. Mr. Rogers distributed a draft of the requested rule changes to the commission members for their consideration. The members reviewed the changes and made a few minor modifications. Mr. Miller made a motion to adopt the changes as presented for sections 18.05 and 18.07 to include the minor changes discussed by the commission. Mr. Coates seconded the motion, with no further discussion, the motion passed on a voice vote.
- C. Mr. Harrington stated he had been laying out the large boxes delineating the proposed areas of South 2 and North 2 but suspended the work as the area of brush to be removed on the north edge of the cemetery is in the way.
- D. Mr. Coffrin handed out copies of the completed forms, already in use by the sexton. The form will be attached to all work done in the cemeteries. The commission made a few suggestions to change the form such as fixing the proportions of the town logo at the top of the sheet, the removal of the word "board" from the authorization statement, and substituting the word "quality" for the term "first call." Mr. Harrington made a motion to accept the form as presented to include the changes as discussed at the meeting. Mr. Garceau seconded the motion and with no further discussions, the motion passed on a voice vote.
- E. Mr. Harrington distributed a final list of stones to be replaced. The name included twelve stones, two of which have two individuals listed. The commission will submit the list to Mr. Jeff Martel at the end of the cemetery year for manufacture during the winter season.

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- F. Maplewood fence – addressed above.
- G. Work bee: Mr. Garceau and Mr Harrington recently met on site to scope out the job. They decided to start in the northeast corner and work westward to open the area for layout of the proposed area North 2. The area around the red maple will also be cleared so the tree's health may be accessed. Commissioners discussed the lilac bushes encroaching on the Everett lot, they will be trimmed back and eventually pulled out in a manner to minimize disturbance to the grave areas. The commission selected Friday, September 25, as the day to begin the work. The work day will start at 8 a.m. and the town office will be notified by phone who is on site to do the work and when they depart the cemetery for the day. Removed brush will either be neatly stacked to the side or loaded on a trailer if available. Mr. Doug Fuller, owner of a lot adjacent to the brush line to be cleared has offered to assist the commission in their cleanup efforts; Mr. Coffrin will notify him as to the date and time when he calls Mr. Fuller to discuss the approval of his cemetery monument.
- H. Mr. Garceau and Mr. Harrington met with Russell and Susan Slora at Maplewood Cemetery recently to confirm the location of their lot and update the cemetery schematic with the correct location. Their receipt for the lot specified they bought Lot 31, however, the receipt should have been for Lot 33. Changes will be made in the computerized records and also in the cemetery card index.

Additionally, Mr. Harrington brought up three other names that could not be accurately matched to the cemetery schematic for Maplewood. Locations for Raymond and Charlene Jennette, Paul A. Mascitti, and Robert and Mary Blandin will be researched.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Last meeting of the cemetery year: the commission will make the final determination of when the last meeting of the cemetery season will take place based on its work load at the time of October's regular meeting.
- B. Special budget issues if required: members were asked to think about budget issues to present at the October meeting. They made preliminary suggestions including costs to repair the Maplewood fence based on the grant outcome, gravel for the Maplewood Cemetery access road, trees to be planted along Nichols Road, and a push mower for the cemetery sexton's crew.

AROUND THE TABLE DISCUSSIONS

None this meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for: 28 October 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Coates made a motion, seconded by Mr. Miller, to adjourn. The motion carried on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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