

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 28, 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. Carl Rogers, town manager, and sexton Dwight Coffrin also attended.

AGENDA CHANGES - ADDITIONS

Details: change Old Business B from rate schedule to one page monument summary.

Change New Business A to include final layout of the North Section of Wilson Cemetery

Add two deeds, 1 niche cover, and two monuments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Miller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Garceau, to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2016 meeting as printed. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT

Mr. Rogers distributed copies of the current cemetery budget and copies of the town budget to date to the commission members. He is still awaiting information to resolve the issue of salary errors from last fiscal year. As for the current fiscal year, the end of September marks the end of the first budget quarter. The sales of lots and niches are doing well while the opening of graves and burial services lag behind, not an issue as most of this work occurs in the spring of the year. Fees from foundation installation exceeded the budget amount. The cemetery account is awaiting the transfer of property tax money to the accounts and the transfer of interest money has not yet been made as it is a quarterly payment and the quarter has not quite ended.

In the expenses columns, wages are on track or even a bit over as there has been fewer rain days this year, something figured into the projected work plan budget each year. The account for town equipment usage has not been charged in this budget year. The cost of concrete is higher as the crew has been doing more foundations; Mr. Coffrin addressed the rising cost of concrete as well. The category of other supplies is over, but the commission had authorized the purchase of pins to mark surveyed corners in the cemeteries. Part of the money for the pins came from the deletion of some shrubbery to pay for the pins instead. Other items included the amount of \$5,895 for repairs to the fence at the Maplewood Cemetery, a \$515 expenditure to clean granite items in the cemetery belonging to the town, and expenses incurred by the town during work at the Moran lot.

RECEIVE GUESTS

None this meeting.

SEXTON REPORT

Mr. Coffrin presented a list of work done by the cemetery crew. Mowing and trimming continue in the cemeteries, cleanup of brush piles at Maplewood will take place when the pace of lawn care drops off with the cooler weather. Mr. LePage has cut some of the trees on his property that hung over the cemetery, cleanup continues. The town road crew is rebuilding the gravel drive at Maplewood and has installed a new culvert at the Nichols Road entrance to the cemetery. Mr. Coffrin has been installing

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the replacement monuments in the cemeteries, a job including the cutting and grinding of existing marble stones and granite bases. As noted in the budget report, Mr. Coffrin addressed the rising price of concrete used in foundation construction. He stated the cost to be \$130 per cubic yard and stated he had to order 4-1/2 yards minimum or pay a premium fee of \$100. He suggested increasing the fee for concrete from \$18 to \$20 as shown in the cemetery fee schedule.

APPROVAL OF DEEDS AND MONUMENTS

- A. Deeds:  
Murdo A., Gail K., Patrick D., & Mark A. Campbell, Wilson, Lot 173, Section G, 10' x 20'  
Paul and Dawn Lacroix, Wilson, Lot 188, Section G, 10' x 7'
  
- B. Niche reservation:  
Philip R. and Rejeanne M. Edson, Columbarium 4, Side A, Niche 3
  
- C. Monuments: Murdo and Patrick Campbell, Lot 173, Section G, Wilson  
Norilla Grace Reed Tisei, Lot 19, Main Section, Wilson
  
- D. Niche covers: Philip Edson, sent back by the commission for revision as the letter height shown as 2" exceeds the columbarium rules maximum letter height of 1-3/4".

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Brush cleanup at Maplewood Cemetery: Mr. Coffrin discussed the issue in his report, as noted, Mr. LePage has been cutting trees adjacent to the cemetery, some trees need further cutting and the site needs further cleanup. The red maple inside the cemetery is in poor condition and will probably have to be removed. The cemetery crew will be continuing cleanup and lilac stump removal during the month of October.
  
- B. One page monument summary for webpage: Mr. Harrington passed out copies of the single page document to be put on the town webpage outlining and summarizing the cemetery rules pertaining to monuments placed in the town cemeteries. He summarized the paragraphs of the document including the glossary, control of work, and the permitted monument sizes by lot size. The document contains a table of sizes. After a discussion and some word changes, Mr. Coates made a motion to accept the form as amended, Mr. Garceau seconded, and with no further discussion, the motion passed on a voice vote. Mr. Harrington will make the word changes suggested during the discussion and forward the document to Elaine Wang, assistant town manager, for inclusion in the cemetery section of the town webpage.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Mausoleum layout and final layout of the North Section, Wilson Cemetery: Mr. Harrington presented a package of drawings depicting proposed layouts for the mausoleum lots at the east side of the North Section and the addition of traditional grave lots on the west side. He presented the mausoleum lots in three options. The first option used all the land for 11

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mausoleum lots and added 13 traditional grave lots by extending two rows of existing grave lots to match the existing row nearest the road. Option 2 reduced the number of mausoleum lots to eight and introduced 13 additional grave lots in the northeast corner of the section while maintaining the proposed 13 lots next to the road. Option 3 further reduced the number of mausoleum lots to six, expanded the grave lots in the northeast corner to 21, and maintained the proposed 13 lots along the road. Mr. Harrington presented the west side of the north section, closest to Quarry Hill Road, in one alternative which added 42 traditional grave lots to the North section.

Discussions included the fact that not many mausoleum lots have sold at Wilson in the past years and the traditional grave lots would be more appealing to those buying lots at Wilson. Members also discussed leaving small gaps between the current lots as laid out at the west side of the section to bring the lot layout back into a uniform arrangement. A few lots based in 4 ft. wide graves had been sold in a section where the remainder of the lots had been based in a 3-1/2 ft. grave configuration. Without the spaces, the proposed lots would appear staggered. Mr. Coffrin stated he had a possible buyer, contingent on commission approval of the layout, for the lot next to Mrs. Nina Martin and behind John Lawson. The client had been looking for a two grave lot but the proposed layout showed that lot as a three grave to match Lawson, Mr. Coffrin asked if the commission would consider reducing the lot from three graves to two. The commission turned down the proposal as the lot at three graves would preserve the uniformity in the lot layout. The lots proposed in the northeast corner are based in a 4 ft. grave width to match in with the proposed mausoleum lots; they are based in a 12 ft. width.

Mr. Miller made a motion to accept Option 3 and include the development drawing for other areas of the North Section, Mr. Coates seconded. The motion passed on a voice vote. Mr. Harrington will incorporate Option 3 and the lot layout shown for the west end of the section into a final layout schematic for the North Section. He will also ensure the lot numbering scheme conforms to the existing numbering scheme used in the current portions of the North Section. Mr. Coffrin will have a copy the revised schematic for use in cemetery business.

#### AROUND THE TABLE DISCUSSIONS

- A. Bulk trash day: Mr. Rogers addressed the recent bulk trash collection day and the organization that acted as sponsor for the day. The group collected a large donation but did not provide much worker support during the trash collection. He suggested that the cemetery commission offer to sponsor the next fall's bulk trash collection and use the donated money to start a fund for cleaning the older or more prominent monuments in the Maplewood Cemetery. This would be a use for the money that would benefit the town. After a brief discussion, commission members accepted the suggestion and Mr. Rogers would present it to the selectmen the next time the issue came up at their meeting.
- B. Sherman Cemetery: during a previous around the table discussion, Mr. Benoit asked if anyone had information about the Sherman Cemetery on Sherman Drive in Barre Town. The cemetery does not belong to the town and sits on private property. Mr. Harrington has done some research on the Colonel Nathaniel Sherman family and prepared an article about them. He distributed copies of the final article to the commission members.
- C. Grave marker found at Booth home: during a previous around the table discussion, Mr. Rogers spoke about a gravestone found in the basement of the Gordon Booth home. Mr. Harrington uncovered further information about the stone belonging to Susanna Scott. In his research, he

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discovered Mrs. Scott to be the aunt of Colonel Nathaniel Sherman discussed in Item B, above. Mr. Harrington suggested the commission request custody of the gravestone and place it in the family lot at Wilson Cemetery should there be a space for it. He made a motion to have Mr. Rogers draft a letter to the Booth family requesting the stone be donated to the commission, Mr. Garceau seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote. Mr. Rogers would also state the commission's intent to place the stone in the cemetery in his letter.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for: 26 October 2016 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 8:00 p.m.

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