

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR AUGUST 24, 2016 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, Robert Benoit, and Dwight Harrington attended. Carl Rogers, town manager, and sexton Dwight Coffrin also attended.

AGENDA CHANGES - ADDITIONS

Details: add item concerning Mooers – Lane monument request at Maplewood if needed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT

Mr. Rogers has made further inquiries into payroll discrepancies noted during the previous month's meeting but no further information has been furnished by the private contractor that does the payroll for the town. Issues tabled until the next meeting.

RECEIVE GUESTS

None this meeting.

SEXTON REPORT

Mr. Coffrin circulated a catalog cut for corner pins and caps to be purchased for staking corners in the cemeteries. The items have not been budgeted in any of the supply categories, however, in the capital improvement budget; \$700 has been set aside for the replacement of a privet hedge. The hedge will not be replaced so these monies could be re-purposed to pay for the pins. The cost of the pins is \$781 for 200 of them. Mr. Garceau made a motion to allow up to \$800 to buy whatever number of pins for that amount for use in the layout of cemetery sections. Mr. Coates seconded the motion and with no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

Mr. Coffrin presented a proposal to increase the size of Lot 188 in Section G of Wilson by 3 feet to change the existing lot from a single grave to a two grave lot to satisfy a request by a potential buyer. The additional space would come from the adjacent Lot 187, a four grave lot which would then become a three grave lot. The lots lay in a portion of Section G in which the layout in the cemetery does not match the design shown on the schematics. Mr. Harrington made a motion to increase Lot 188 to a two grave lot and decrease Lot 187 to a three grave lot. Mr. Coates seconded the motion and with no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

Also in Section G at Wilson, Lot 197b measures out to be a 5 x 10 single grave lot and can be sold as an extended single grave lot. The lot lies between Norton and Carminati. Mr. Garceau made a motion to turn Lot 197b into an extended single grave lot, Mr. Coates seconded the motion. This would be another case where the conditions in the field do not match the section design. With no further discussion, the motion passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Coffrin presented a marked up schematic of section G showing the final layout of the Sweet lot, Section G, Lot 164, and the Gibb lot, Section G, Lot 164n.

As for work within the cemeteries, Mr. Coffrin reported two foundations had been poured in Maplewood; there are also two pending lot sales there. Debris from the first cutting of lilac bushes has been removed and the site is awaiting a load of topsoil. In the West Hill cemetery, a marble tablet and a

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slate stone have been repaired with epoxy. At Wilson, there are two lot sales pending, a columbarium niche sold, and there is interest by the Houle family to erect another mausoleum next to the one owned by Charles Houle. The trimming of hedges and other bushes to begin soon, the hot weather has not been ideal for trimming the plants. The columbaria structures have been cleaned and the work turned out well.

Two maple trees at the Wilson Cemetery are to be inspected and a determination made as to whether or not to cut them down. One is near the vault; the other is the second maple up the slope along Websterville Road. Town Manager Rogers will review and make the approvals to remove the trees as required.

Mr. Coffrin presented a discussion concerning the activities at the Moran lot in Section G [Lot 93] of Wilson Cemetery. Graves 1 thru 3 had previous burials in them and when the crew opened grave 4, they determined that there was not enough room for the full burial requested. The burials in the lot had not been properly aligned and spaced per the lot layout and one grave from the adjoining Davison lot encroached into the Moran lot. After working with the family, an uncle was removed from grave 2 and his remains cremated and re-interred in grave 4, the one too narrow for a full burial. Workers buried Carmella Moran in grave 2. The Hooker funeral home submitted a bill to the town for \$1,081 for services rendered during the removal and interment processes. The town will pay the amount as the burials in the lot are linked to errors made by the town's cemetery workers over time. Mr. Coffrin obtained all the necessary documents required to remove a body and make the final interments.

As for the sale of cremation urns, Mr. Coffrin reported the base prices had gone up and it would no longer be useful for the town to keep a supply of them on hand, he would not be purchasing any.

APPROVAL OF DEEDS AND MONUMENTS

- A. Deeds:
Raymond and Charlene Jennett, Maplewood, North 1, Lot 89, 8x10 corrective deed
- B. Niche reservation:
Collette A. Gagnon, Columbarium 4, Side B, Niche 18
- C. Monuments:
Patricia Smith, Wilson, Section New B, Lot 452b, single grave.
Thomas Abare, Wilson, Old Yard 1, Lot 254, per Reginald Abare.
Francis Lane, Maplewood, Section South2, Lot 9
- D. Niche covers: none this meeting

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Maple tree on Websterville Road: as noted above, the maple tree near the vault will be inspected to see if it will need to be cut down. The first tree on the left on Websterville Road does have power lines within the branches, if they present a problem, the power company should take the limbs down. Town Manager Rogers will inspect the site and make a final determination.

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- B. Brush cleanup at Maplewood Cemetery: The root system for the first lilac bushes to be cut down have been removed. One stone had to be removed but will be reset at the time the site is filled with topsoil and re-graded. The second group of lilac bushes has been cut down and resulting brush piles to be removed from the site. Mr. Rogers has not heard from Mr. John LePage concerning the removal of poplar trees as Mr. LePage has been otherwise occupied with other projects. Mr. Rogers will send another letter concerning the tree removal.
- C. Rate schedule for webpage: Ms. Elaine Wang made the suggested changes to the rate schedule and posted the new version on the town webpage.
- D. Mascetti lot and refund issue: Mr. Benoit spoke with Mr. Mascitti, they determined the time of the lot sale to have been in the same time frame as that of the Mowatt sale at Maplewood or sometime around 1990. Mr. Mascitti has no documentation of payments made and a search of the town records did not yield any results, either. Mr. Rogers searched the open invoice records to see if any payments were still pending as the lot was never fully paid for. No documents concerning Mascitti could be found. Also, searches of other pertinent town records did not yield any results concerning Mascitti. Mr. Mascitti is not overly concerned about the money; Mr. Benoit will inform him as to the results of the records search.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. None this meeting.

AROUND THE TABLE DISCUSSIONS

- A. Mr. Garceau discussed the installation of the replacement grave stones with Mr. Coffrin. He will be installing two of them at Wilson soon. Mr. Garceau also suggested the straightening of the stones in the Everett lot at Maplewood during the final placement of topsoil and re-grading of the site after all the removal of the lilac bushes is complete.
- B. Mr. Rogers made a suggestion of posting a single page on the town's website outlining and defining the size of monuments for each size of lot sold. The summary would be taken from the regulations and be more easily accessible to website users. Mr. Harrington will create the document for commission review.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for: 28 September 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 7:54 p.m.

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