

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR JUNE 28, 2017 MEETING
6:30 P.M., BARRE TOWN MUNICIPAL OFFICE

CALL TO ORDER

Call to order at the town offices at 6:26 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: One deed and one niche for signature; discussion concerning green burials.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Garceau made a motion, seconded by Mr. Coates, to approve the agenda as presented. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Garceau made a motion, seconded by Mr. Coates, to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2017 meeting as written. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT

None this meeting.

RECEIVE GUESTS

None this meeting.

SEXTON REPORT

Mr. Coffrin provided a handout listing cemetery business and events. Work such as mowing and trimming can only be done during times it is not raining. The weather has also impacted the program of spreading fertilizer and insect control products, the work will continue into the first few weeks of July. The crew will be placing the two replacement stones at Maplewood as time permits. Mr. Coffrin sold a lot in the Maplewood Cemetery to Mr. Labor. For the fiscal year, Mr. Coffrin reported that 32 interments had been done including full burials, cremains placement, and a mausoleum entombment. There are two possible sales of mausoleum lots at the Wilson Cemetery. A tree had fallen at Maplewood and has been cut up and removed, no damage to the cemetery or any monuments occurred, a second tree may become an issue. Mr. Coffrin assisted Mr. Harrington in accessing the Susanna Scott stone. Mr. Coffrin has been in contact with Spruce Mountain Design, they may be able to saw cut the stone to square the edges for easier setting and have offered to do the work for free.

APPROVAL OF DEEDS AND MONUMENTS

- A. Deeds:
William E., III and Carolyn S. Ix; Wilson Cemetery, Section G, Lot 205, 10' x 7'

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- B. Niche reservation:
Colette Proteau, Columbarium 4, Side B, Niche 15

- C. Monuments: None this meeting. Mr. Garceau visited Mr. Steve Benoit at Rock of Ages to discuss the Barre Town Cemetery Commission regulations concerning the size requirements for the monuments placed in town cemeteries. Mr. Benoit did not have a copy of the regulations and Mr. Garceau directed him to the cemetery page on the town website.

- D. Niche covers: None this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Susanna Scott gravestone placement: Mr. Harrington presented a draft copy of the program that would be used for the presentation at the cemetery. He also recommended the service be held on the 9th of September rather than the 16th as the 16th will be a bulk trash day. Mr. Coates made a motion to hold the event on September 9, seconded by Mr. Miller, and with no further discussion, the motion carried. Mr. Harrington will be preparing an invitation style article for the August edition of the Barre Town newsletter concerning the Scott re-dedication event. Mr. Miller made a motion to allow Mr. Coffrin, the sexton, to proceed with the trimming of the Scott stone by Spruce Mountain, Mr. Coates seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote. Mr. Garceau made a motion to set the Scott stone in concrete at a depth as needed instead of setting it by direct burial, the amount of concrete needed to be determined by the sexton. Mr. Coates seconded the motion and with no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

- B. Creation of single grave lots: Mr. Harrington distributed paper copies of a proposed layout for single grave lots to be located in the southwesterly portion of the North Section. The area in front of the Paxman lots would have to be left open as there are stormwater drainage features in that area that would not allow for full lots. He also discussed tabling the issue until the lots could be laid out in the North Section to ensure the lots could be created. The fact the design had been done on a schematic rather than a survey required the field verification prior to commission approval of any proposed lot layout. With no further discussion, the commission tabled the issue.

- C. Final status on stone replacements: Mr. Harrington reported the two monuments awaiting placement in the Maplewood Cemetery, Ingalls and Goldsbury, have been located. Stakes are in place in the locations at Maplewood and the monuments will be installed in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Delivering schematics maps to the town. Mr. Harrington brought up the topic concerning furnishing the town with copies of the schematic drawings of the three town cemeteries. The commission would have to review the schematics for each cemetery, one at a time, and adopt them as the official schematics to be used by all parties in any cemetery business. Paper copies would be furnished to the town engineer and stored the drawing flat files. Any previous editions of the schematics should be removed from the files and disposed of. Additionally, the engineer would receive electronic versions of the schematics that can be printed or plotted on town equipment. Mr. Miller suggested furnishing the town engineer with the CAD files. Mr.

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Harrington agreed and would also include all the necessary files, including the pen table, needed to successfully recreate the drawings in the Autocad computer program. The commission would begin by reviewing the West Hill Cemetery during the July meeting to possibly adopt the schematic, but also to define the process in anticipation of adopting the schematic packages for the larger cemeteries.

- B. Re-setting of the Everett slate. Mr. Coffrin has custody of the stone and will be resetting it in the Everett lot at Maplewood at the same time the crew sets the two replacement stones mentioned in Old Business, Item C, above.
- C. Annual commission elections. Mr. Coates nominated Mr. Garceau to serve as the commission chairman, seconded by Mr. Miller. With no other nominations and no further discussions, Mr. Coates made a motion to close the nominations, seconded by Mr. Miller. With no further discussions, the motion to close the nominations carried on a voice vote. The commission then elected Mr. Garceau to serve as chairman on a voice vote.

Mr. Garceau nominated Mr. Miller to serve as vice-chair of the commission, seconded by Mr. Benoit. With no further nominations, Mr. Garceau made a motion to close the nominations, seconded by Mr. Benoit. With no further discussions, the commission voted to close the nominations on a voice vote. The commission then elected Mr. Miller to serve as vice chairman on a voice vote.

Mr. Harrington agreed to continue his service as the Cemetery Commission recorder.

AROUND THE TABLE DISCUSSIONS

- A. Mr. Harrington complimented the cemetery crew for having the Barre Town cemeteries ready for Memorial Day on time despite the problems and limitations brought on by the weather. After visiting several other cemeteries in the area, he noted that none of them had been made ready for Memorial Day. The commission wishes to thank the crew for their dedicated and timely work. The crew included Dwight Coffrin, Sexton, Raymond Brown, Phil Morin, Wayne King, Chris Willette, and Justin Beaudin.
- B. Mr. Harrington had come across some historical information concerning the storage vault at Wilson Cemetery while reading some older editions of the town report. He mentioned several passages from the reports between 1922 and 1925, the period of time covered by the vault's inception and construction. The tax payers began voting funds for the structure in 1922, construction took place in 1923, and a final payment made to the contractor in 1925. The firm of A. B. Lane Construction of South Barre build the vault and received \$5,000 for the work in 1924 and an additional \$850 payment in 1925. Mr. Harrington also stated that Charles Wilson made a \$1,000 donation for construction of the vault. He also told the commission that the town carried a hearse on the list of town equipment from 1897 to the mid – 1930's.
[note: although not stated during the meeting, there is a Charles S. Wilson, 1855 – 1928, buried in the Old Yard 1 section of the Wilson Cemetery.]
- C. Mr. Garceau brought up the subject of the new “green burial” law that will become effective on July 1st. He circulated a copy of a newspaper article from The Barre Montpelier Times Argus that outlined the new law. Some of the items that will change include the depth of burial and casket design. Mr. Miller mentioned that embalmed bodies had to be in a concrete vault to prevent embalming fluid from eventually entering groundwater. The new rules probably only

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applied to un-embalmed bodies. Mr. Coffrin had stated earlier that the rule changes did not necessarily need to be followed in existing cemeteries.

- D. Mr. Garceau made a motion to have Mr. Rogers, Town Manager, ask the select board to allow the cemetery commission to sponsor the bulk trash day to be held on September 16, the proceeds to go to special cemetery projects. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and with no further discussions, the motion carried on a voice vote. Mr. Rogers will make the request and use the draft program for the Susanna Scott re-dedication as an example of a commission special project.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for: 26 July 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Coates made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Miller. The motion carried on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Alan Garceau, Chairman
by Dwight D. Harrington, recorder