

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 27, 2017 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, Merle Miller, Robert Benoit, Norman Coates, and Dwight Harrington attended. Carl Rogers, town manager, and sexton Dwight Coffrin also attended.

AGENDA CHANGES - ADDITIONS

Details: none offered.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Miller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Coates, to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2017 meeting as written. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote. Mr. Rogers has forwarded a copy of the minutes to Mr. William Crowther per his request at the August meeting.

QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT

None this month.

RECEIVE GUESTS

Ms. Barb Baird, VOCA (Vermont Old Cemetery Association.) Ms. Baird has offered to clean some headstones in the Maplewood Cemetery as a volunteer to the town. She uses water or a biological cleaner called D2 Biological Solution to remove mold stains. Mr. Miller complimented her efforts in other cemeteries as commendable. Ms. Baird does this type of volunteer work due to her interest in cemeteries, the personal histories of those interred there, and the history of the granite industry in Vermont. She has an interest in joining her own local cemetery commission in Cabot, Vermont. The commission discussed the various types of liability that might be encountered from personal injury to Ms. Baird as she worked at Maplewood to damage to headstones during cleaning. Mr. Miller suggested developing a hold harmless document to be signed prior to working in the cemetery. Mr. Rogers noted the documentation would have to be approved by the commission and included in the meeting minutes. Mr. Harrington expressed concern that as the town does not own any of the monuments, work on a more recent marker may come to involve family members still in the Barre area. Ms. Baird said she did not work on cracked or broken monuments or slate markers, she only cleans granite or marble monuments in otherwise good condition. Mr. Miller made a motion to allow Ms. Baird to identify the monuments she would like to clean and work with Mr. Coffrin once permission to do the work has been granted. Mr. Coates seconded the motion. A hold harmless document will be created for use in this project. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

SEXTON REPORT

Mr. Coffrin reported he had done five cremation interments, three in the ground, the others at the columbaria. There are two more services scheduled, Willard at Wilson Cemetery and Austin at Maplewood Cemetery. He has also sold a lot to Mr. Parker in Section G of Wilson, deed to follow. Mr. Coffrin plans to spread insecticide at Wilson as some indications of grub infestation has appeared. The crew has been doing mowing and trimming and will be trimming the hedge behind the columbaria soon. Additionally, five sections of fence at the Maplewood Cemetery have been sandblasted and painted and 210 feet of driveway has been paved in the Wilson Cemetery.

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 27, 2017 MEETING
6:30 P.M., BARRE TOWN MUNICIPAL OFFICE

APPROVAL OF DEEDS AND MONUMENTS

- A. Deeds: none this meeting.
- B. Niche reservation: None this meeting.
- C. Monuments: Deborah Lamoy and Linda Lamberti, Lot 459a, Section New A, Wilson
- D. Niche covers: None this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Susanna Scott gravestone placement: The commission held a general discussion of events and media coverage of the ceremony held at Wilson Cemetery. Mr. Harrington had put together a booklet containing the materials generated for, during, and after the event. The booklet is in draft form and will be completed and distributed as necessary and an electronic version will be available on the town's webpage. The commission also discussed thank you letters for some of the participants, the recorder will prepare the letters and forward them to the town manager's office to be put on letterhead and signed by Mr. Garceau as the chair.
- B. Adoption of West Hill Cemetery schematic map: Mr. Garceau made a motion to formally adopt the West Hill Cemetery Schematic as presented by Mr. Harrington on this date. Mr. Coates seconded the motion. Mr. Miller reiterated the need for electronic files as well. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote. Mr. Harrington would email a CAD file and a PDF to the town engineer.
- C. Review of the Maplewood Cemetery schematics: The commission discussed the 8 x 8 lots created at Maplewood to be used for personal columbaria monuments. The lot size will be verified by layout in the field for efficient use of the land, and a price for the odd sized lot will be set. Additionally, the cemetery regulations will be amended to include any special rules attached to the lot size as well as the use of the columbaria style monuments.
- D. Bulk trash day, 16 September 2017: Mr. Garceau thanked the members of the commission for their participation in the event. The commission collected \$575 in donations for the day's work. Mr. Coates made a motion to send a thank you letter to the select board for allowing the cemetery commission to sponsor the event, the commission recorder would prepare the letter to be signed by the chair. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Mr. Rogers pointed out the event had between 180 and 190 loads coming through the line making the event the 3rd busiest fall bulk collection event held. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Work needed to be done in the cemeteries before the end of the calendar year. Mr. Coffrin and his crew finished most the special work items in addition to completing their regularly scheduled mowing and trimming despite the rainy summer. Special chores left include the removal of two dead or dying maple trees at Maplewood Cemetery and the "plumbing up" of two granite posts on the dead-end driveway at Wilson Cemetery. All the replacement gravestones have been installed and the other monuments marked for repairs are finished. The commission compliments Mr. Coffrin and the cemetery crew on their great work this year.

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 27, 2017 MEETING
6:30 P.M., BARRE TOWN MUNICIPAL OFFICE

- B. Process for revisions to officially adopted cemetery schematics. Mr. Harrington distributed a one-page document containing proposed guidelines for updating the cemetery schematics once they have been adopted by the commission. The guidelines are based on a five-year cycle and Mr. Harrington asked the commission members to review the guidelines for further discussion at the next meeting.
- C. Pletzer lot question. Mr. Coffrin briefed the commission on recent discussions with Mrs. Pletzer concerning her lot in Section New B at Wilson. She is upset that her daughter is buried behind the family monument rather than in front of it. The layout of the area of Section New B calls for this particular arrangement. Mrs. Pletzer stated she did not know of this design arrangement at the time of the lot purchase back in March, her daughter has since been interred in the lot. Mr. Coffrin has located two similar lot arrangements, one in the North Section, another in the New Section that might be considered in a swap. The Pletzer family would have to pay fees to disinter and re-inter the remains and to move the family headstone to the new location. The town would take over ownership of the current lot and it could be re-sold with a concrete foundation already in place. Another alternative would be to rotate the existing headstone on its foundation to face the opposite driveway. The Pletzer family is still discussing the issues and have not made any final decisions that would affect the cemetery. Mr. Coffrin relayed this information to the commission to make them aware of the situation.

AROUND THE TABLE DISCUSSIONS

- A. Mr. Garceau thanked the commission members for their participation in the bulk trash collection and the Susanna Scott ceremony. Mr. Coffrin complimented the commission on their proactive involvement with the cemeteries and said he enjoyed working with the commission. He would pass along the commission's positive remarks to his work crew.
- B. Mr. Rogers asked the commission members to bring any budget suggestions they might have to the October meeting, traditionally the last for the calendar year as the cemeteries close at the end of October. He suggested a budget item to have Mr. Dennis Beaudin submit a bid to clean the cemetery corner posts next season.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for: 25 October 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Garceau made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Coates. The motion carried on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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