

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR AUGUST 22, 2018 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, and Dwight Harrington attended. Carl Rogers, town manager, and sexton Dwight Coffrin also attended. Robert Benoit and Angela Labrador did not attend this meeting.

AGENDA CHANGES - ADDITIONS

Details: Mr. Garceau asked to add a discussion item to discuss plantings at Wilson Cemetery.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Coates made a motion, seconded by Mr. Garceau, to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2018 meeting as written. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT

None this month.

RECEIVE GUESTS

None this meeting.

SEXTON REPORT

Mr. Coffrin reported five interments have been completed with two more scheduled for 28 August. All the interments have been cremations. He has sold a two-grave lot in Wilson, Section New-B and has a niche sale pending. The crew has been mowing and trimming as needed and hedge trimming at Wilson will begin the week of 27 August, weather permitting. Three more sections of fence have been sandblasted at Maplewood, they have been primed and one section painted black. The fence work will continue once Mr. Peake returns from vacation. The solar panel for the flag pole light is being charged up and will be installed soon. Research continues to buy privet plants for the front portion of Wilson Cemetery.

APPROVAL OF DEEDS AND MONUMENTS

- A. Deeds: none this meeting.
- B. Niche reservation: none this meeting.
- C. Monuments: none this meeting.
- D. Niche covers: none this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Special rules for 8-ft x 8-ft at Maplewood. Mr. Harrington presented the rules written for the 8-ft x 8-ft lots previously reviewed by the commission. He pointed out the changes made per suggestions of the commission at the July meeting. Mr. Garceau made a motion to accept the rules for private columbaria as presented. Mr. Coates seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

Mr. Harrington will contact Elaine Wang in the town manager's office to obtain a text document of the current cemetery rules and regulations and merge the privately-owned columbaria rules into the current version and change the revision date on the inside cover.

- B. The adoption of the Maplewood Cemetery schematic maps: Mr. Harrington presented a full-sized set of schematic maps for the Maplewood Cemetery to the commission. The commission had previously reviewed the schematics and their adoption as the town cemetery schematics put on hold until the special rules for privately-owned columbaria had been officially adopted. With the adoption of those rules completed, Mr. Harrington asked the schematics be adopted as well. Mr. Garceau made a motion to approve the schematics as presented. Mr. Coates seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote. Mr. Harrington left a paper set of schematics for the town engineer and two sets for the sexton.

Mr. Harrington will put together the electronic package of documents, including the CAD files, that make up the schematics and email them to the town engineer. The electronic package will also contain a pdf file used to print out the set of schematics for Maplewood Cemetery.

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- C. 2018 gravestone replacements. Mr. Harrington presented a package containing the five stones the commission voted to replace at the July meeting. He asked the members to look them over carefully as the document had not been checked for accuracy. Those present reviewed the document and asked questions to verify the information as presented. Sexton Dwight Coffrin will bring a copy of the document to Spruce Mountain Granite for a price check, if they offer a price of \$200 per stone, which the commission has been paying for replacement stones, Mr. Coffrin will authorize Spruce Mountain to do the work on behalf of the commission.
- D. Status of the conflict of interest discussions for Barre Town. Mr. Garceau reported the town group recently had a meeting, they meet on the first Wednesday of the month. The cemetery commission is less likely to be involved in conflicts as they make recommendations more than decisions. As an example of a conflict, if someone came into the cemetery with all the proper insurance and documentation needed to perform work in the cemetery and that person is not allowed to do the work in favor of someone else, that would be a conflict. Mr. Rogers told the commission members they should recuse themselves from decisions made where they have a personal interest or when the commission is discussing hiring someone they have a personal connection with. Mr. Garceau recalled the commission's early studies for the town's columbaria units. He worked for Rock of Ages at the time and a representative of Rock of Ages gave a presentation to the commission on columbaria units. Conflict of interest was avoided in this situation as the presentation was part of a study and recommendations, when the columbaria units were built, the selectman put the work out to bid in a competitive bid situation. The town group is using a model for rules as set out by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.
- E. Fireproof file cabinet for the cemetery office. Pending.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Bulk trash day, September 15, 2018. Town Manager Rogers is going to recommend the cemetery commission sponsor the bulk trash day this September. He will also be soliciting help from the Phoenix House in South Barre. The selectmen will make the final determination for sponsorship in an upcoming meeting. Should the cemetery commission sponsor the event, they will hand out fliers and display the photo board from last year. Mr. Rogers will notify the cemetery commission members of the selectmen's decision before bulk trash day.
- B. Mr. Garceau led a discussion on plantings in the Wilson Cemetery. Among his concerns, a row of sunflowers can be seen behind three gravestones, he questioned the appearance of the flowers, referring to them as less than attractive. While there are no specific rules against sunflowers, the commission does have the right to remove them should they become unsightly. In the areas of the Parker, Perojo, and Tucker lots, the cedar trees have grown large enough to encroach on the adjoining lots. The commission can send letters to lot owners stating the cedars need to be trimmed. Mr. Coffrin said his workers have been dealing with cedar trees on other lots and can do the work at either cost or no cost to the lot owners. In the new section, there is a single spruce tree planted near the MacAskill lot that has grown too tall and looks out of place when compared to the surrounding plantings. Mr. Rogers said there is a planting plan for this area. The commission members were encouraged to review the tree in the cemetery and make recommendations to keep it in place or remove the tree and replace it with something more in line with the other existing plantings.

AROUND THE TABLE DISCUSSIONS

None this meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for: 26 September 2018 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. Garceau. The motion carried on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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