

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR JULY 27, 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: Mr. Harrington requested the addition of a discussion on marking section corners in cemetery and Town Manager Rogers requested a discussion on cleaning the columbaria in Wilson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Coates made a motion, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2016 meeting as printed. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT

Mr. Rogers reported to the commissioners the results of the budget year just ended, July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. The revenues finished with \$4,800 above budget, \$1,000 came from additional interest payments, the rest from other cemetery revenue sources such as \$2,000 additional from lot sales. There was also a \$400 donation to the cemetery fund. Revenue from columbaria niche sales was down by one niche sale. As for expenses, the overall amount showed an overage of about \$14,000. The payroll amount showed \$16,000 over making the figures questionable. Equipment was \$700 under, \$325 over for supplies including concrete for foundations, building costs \$464 under, outside services \$755 under, insurance on target, and benefits under by about 2.9%. Mr. Rogers would look into the payroll issue. Mr. Garceau made a motion to except the report but require additional information on the payroll issue, Mr. Benoit seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

RECEIVE GUESTS

Whitney Maxfield representing Flags For Veterans proposed the placement of a marker commemorating the Civil War service of Nathan Harrington buried at Wilson Cemetery. Mr. Maxfield circulated a package of information including a sketch of the proposed marker and a death notice reference to Harrington's burial at Wilson. Commissioner Harrington (no relation) had found a burial certificate in the town records showing Nathan Harrington to be buried at Wilson. He made a motion to place the grass marker six feet from the center of the marker for Nathan's sister Marcia Harrington and towards the grave of Revolutionary War Nathan Harrington. Mr. Garceau seconded the motion. The marker will be 2 feet by 1 foot by 4 inches in size, Mr. Maxfield will reconcile the birth year for the final design of the stone. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

Brian and Glennis Mooers appeared before the commission to request the placement of an additional monument in the lot owned by Christian Mekkelsen in the Maplewood Cemetery. The monument would be for Glennis's mother, Francis Mekkelsen Lane, daughter of Christian, the lot is shown on the schematic as Lot 9, Section South 2 of Maplewood. There are currently two monuments on the six grave lot, the addition of another would not be allowed under current rules without commission approval. The monument would be placed on grave 6 and would have a base of 30 inches by 14 inches. The upright portion would be a slant style. It was noted that this lot, purchased in 1936 would

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not necessarily meet current rules. Mr. Coates requested a sketch of the monument, the Mooers family would provide one for the next meeting.

SEXTON REPORT

Mr. Coffrin reported that the debris from the lilac removal had been cleaned up at the Maplewood Cemetery. The grub control efforts at the cemetery seemed to be working.

Mr. Coffrin addressed a swap proposed by Earle Sanborn at the Maplewood Cemetery. Mr. Sanborn wanted to swap his current location at Lot 39a in the center section for Lot 27 in Section South 2 as he preferred the South 2 location. Mr. Harrington made a motion to allow the swap as long as the Sanborn family remained responsible for all the fees and expenses of the swap. Mr. Coates seconded the motion, with no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

At Wilson, insect control is being applied as needed. Other grounds keeping work included the removal of debris from several hedges and a potentilla hedge needs to be monitored for possible replacement if it does not recover after the debris removal. The mock orange hedge has recovered after similar work and further shrub pruning will begin in early August. The crew did three interments for the month and also straightened more than 60 monuments at West Hill.

No new developments on the Mascetti lot and refund issue. Town records can easily be searched back to the year 2000, nothing was found about the case. Mr. Benoit would contact Mr. Mascetti to find out the date of the lot payment in question to allow for another search of town records.

APPROVAL OF DEEDS AND MONUMENTS

- A. Deeds:
Theresa Lang, Lot 172d, Old Yard 5, Wilson, a 10 x 3-1/2 single grave lot

- B. Niche reservation: none this meeting

- C. Monuments:
Theodore and Linda Rochon, Lot 323c, Old Yard 2, Wilson
Earle and Martha Sanborn, Lot 27, South 2, Maplewood
Bernarr and Donna Gibbs, Lot 164n, Section G, Wilson

- D. Niche covers: none this meeting

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Maple tree on Websterville Road.
Nothing further this meeting.

- B. Brush cleanup at Maplewood Cemetery, lilac issue and poplar trees on LePage line: Mr. Garceau and Mr. Harrington had cut the lilac bushes around the Everett lot, the cemetery crew has hauled the trimmings away. Mr. Coffrin indicated the stumps left behind were of the correct height for easy removal with machinery, a task to be completed at a later date. No further contact has been made by Mr. John LePage concerning the removal of the poplar trees. Mr. Garceau and Mr. Harrington will be removing the last lilac bush near the Everett lot in the near future.

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- C. Sale of funerary urns by the Barre Town cemetery sexton: no urns have been purchased as of this date, prices for them are usually better in the fall of the year.
- D. Status Jennett deed: the deed has not been prepared; it will reference Lot 89 in Section North 1 of the Maplewood Cemetery.
- E. Rate schedule for webpage, other corrections and additions to webpage: the commission reviewed the changed page and discussed the meaning of administration only fees; these fees cover the cost of doing the required paperwork done when a family puts cremains into an existing monument on their own. Required forms and paperwork still have to be done by the sexton even if the cemetery crew is not involved in the work. The business hours on the webpage are not shown correctly and need to be changed. The overtime requirement would need to be reworked as well.

Mr. Miller made a motion to change the word overtime to “work outside of normal business hours” and change the fee to \$75 per hour and delete the \$40 for the second hour statement. The terms “Administration – Only Fee” and “Columbarium” will be changed to all caps and made bold to turn them into headers to match the other headers shown in the listings. The words “(place cremains in an existing monument)” will follow the Administration Only Fee heading. The business hours shown will be changed from 8 to 4:30 to 8 to 3:30. Mr. Coates seconded the motion. With no further discussions, the motion carried on a voice vote.

- F. Gibbs lot in Section G of Wilson: Mr. Coffrin met with the family and found the current Gibbs lot to be next to the lot of Tracey Sweet, a Gibbs daughter. The family requested the new lot location to allow for both lots to remain adjacent as they had originally purchased them to be together. Mr. Coffrin proposed moving both the Gibbs and Sweet lots to Lot 164 in Section G of Wilson Cemetery and creating a two grave lot for Gibbs, Lot 164n, and a four grave lot for Sweet, Lot 164s. The family agreed to the proposed swap. The town would absorb any fees to make the swap as the change in Gibbs lot location. The changes are necessary as Lot 188, Section G, became unsuitable as a two grave lot due to no fault on the part of the Gibbs family; they purchased a two grave lot in good faith on the map that turned out to be a one grave lot in the field. Mr. Garceau made a motion to allow the switch from Lots 187 and 188 to the Lot 164 location and the creation of Lots 164n and 164s. Mr. Coates seconded the motion, with no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Lot transfer, LaMoy to Lamoy and Lamberti: the commission reviewed the current rules and made the decision to allow the transfer. They signed the blank Page 5 of the deed provided by Deborah LaMoy to show approval. A letter from the town will be included to reinforce the cemetery rules concerning the number of burials per lot. As Mr. Cuvelier has already been interred, apparently his cremation ashes, one of the future burials must also be cremains to meet the regulations of the maximum of two burial per grave, either a full burial and cremains or two sets of cremains. The signed paperwork will be returned to Bill Crowther for further processing.
- B. Mr. Dennis Beaudin expressed concerns for cleaning the columbaria structures, specifically the covers with lithochrome lettering. The commission discussed current lithochrome installation methods, current cleaning practices with citrus based cleaners, and the need to prevent the lithochrome from possibly washing away when cleaned with a power washer. The structures

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are very dirty along the bottom edges and the benches and pedestal also need cleaning. The commission recommended Mr. Beaudin clean the entire columbaria structures, benches, and pedestal and use extra caution when cleaning the niche covers.

- C. The commission discussed how to mark the section corners during cemetery layout. The sexton recommended metal marking rods and caps for the major lot section corners as easy to find reference point for laying out individual lots. He will purchase about 200 of the marker rods for use at Maplewood and Wilson Cemeteries.

AROUND THE TABLE DISCUSSIONS

- A. West Hill: the commission wishes to thank Ray Brown, Phil Morin, Wayne King, Chris Willette, Justin Beaudin, and sexton Dwight Coffrin for their outstanding work in straightening the monuments at the West Hill Cemetery. The appearance of the cemetery has dramatically improved and new photos of the site will be taken for use on the town's webpage.
- B. The replacement monuments currently in storage will be installed in the near future. Some bases will have to be prepared; others can be placed directly in the ground.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for: 24 August 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Garceau made a motion, seconded by Mr. Coates, to adjourn. The motion carried on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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