

TOWN OF BARRE

Cemetery Commission

Minutes of May 28, 2008 meeting

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Alan Garceau. Members present were Norman Coates, Alan Garceau, Dwight Harrington, Dan Kely & Robert Pellon. Town Manager Carl Rogers and Sexton Don Gainey were also present.
(Meeting was held at Wilson Cemetery)
2. Minutes of the April 28, 2008 meeting were approved as recorded.
3. Guests: Melvin Friberg – he presented a letter written by him addressed to the Town of Barre Selectboard voicing his disapproval of how the monies for the columbarium project was placed in article #3 (cemetery operating budget) instead of a stand alone vote for that amount during the recent town voting day.
4. Sexton report: Everything going well in cemeteries at this time.
5. Other business:
 - A. Deeds:

Charles Webster	Lot 139B	Section G	Wilson
Edward & Tanya Patterson	Lot 113A	Section New A	Wilson
Donald & Alita George	Lot 453A	Section New B	Wilson
 - B. Monument Drafts Approved: None
 - C. Buy back of cemetery lots – tabled until June 2008 meeting.
 - D. General Discussion: (1) Columbarium for Wilson. Two units of 48 – total 96, all Barre Gray granite. Dan & Alan will go to Vt. Health Dept. board hearing tomorrow to request certificate for columbarium installation. Specifications needed for R.F.B. It was voted to allow bids to be placed using granite or polymer niche construction. Board members toured area where columbarium is to be placed. Rules will be updated to include columbarium units.
6. The next meeting date June 25
7. Motion to adjourn at 2031 hrs

Respectfully submitted, Alan B. Garceau, Chairman

WILSON CEMETERY COLUMBARIA

INTRODUCTION

The Barre Town Cemetery Commission has proposed a plan to place five 48 niche columbaria (above ground structures for the permanent placement of human cremated remains) at Wilson Cemetery. This project will be completed over a period of time and will require an initial investment of \$50,000 from the Town.

Phase I of the plan will use \$50,000 to buy 2 of 5 columbaria and pay for set-up. The structures will be constructed of Barre granite and will be placed in a park-like design in Wilson Cemetery in an area that will be pleasantly landscaped and accessible by a brick or stone walkway. As the niches or compartments are sold, money from the sales will be used to pay for additional columbaria, operating needs, and some will be set aside in a perpetual care fund. The project will become self-supporting.

This venture is being proposed because cremation as way of laying a loved one to rest is expected to surpass full-casket burials in the next few years. Currently, the town does not offer a cost effective way for internment of cremains in its cemeteries. The only available option in a Barre Town cemetery to immortalize cremains is to place the ashes in the ground. Burying cremated remains in a plot of ground is not the best way to use available cemetery land.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

A. Cost to purchase, erect and landscape two columbaria:

48 niche vault	\$14,742
Cement base	2,000
Installation	1,200
Granite bench	<u>700</u>
Single vault and bench Cost	\$18,642
Units to acquire	<u>X 2</u>
Cost of two columbaria and benches	\$37,284
Pedestal	1,500
Landscape/walkway	<u>11,216</u>
Total estimated phase I cost	<u>\$50,000</u>

B. Computation of per niche sale price:

Per niche construction cost (\$50,000/96)	\$520
Per niche cost of land converted (\$5,920/96)	62*
Earnings set aside for future columbaria	408
Earnings set aside for perpetual care	<u>110</u>
Sale price of niche to town resident	<u>\$1,100**</u>

*Revenue from sale of lots for full-casket burial if land was not converted to columbaria.

**Base price. Full rate sheet will consider cost for non-resident and cost for most desirable niches.

C. How revenue from sales will be used:

Operating costs ($\$520 + \$62 = \$582 \times 96$)	\$55,872
Savings for additional units ($\$408 \times 96$)	\$39,168
Add to perpetual care fund ($\$110 \times 96$)	<u>\$10,560</u>
Total revenue from sales	<u>\$105,600</u>

D. Compare estimated cost of niche internment to estimated cost of full-casket burial:

➤ Internment in a niche:	
Estimated cost of niche	\$1,100
Open/Close (2 people)	<u>400</u>
Est. cost of niche internment	<u>\$1,500</u>
➤ Full-Casket burial:	
Cost of two lots	\$ 990
Foundation	250
Headstone	2,500
2 adult basic burials	1,060
Corner posts/markers	<u>50</u>
Est. cost of full-casket burial:	<u>\$4,850</u>