

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR AUGUST 26, 2020 MEETING
TOWN OFFICE and/or HOME BASED CONFERENCE CALL

CALL TO ORDER

Call to order at the town offices at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commission members: Alan Garceau, Robert Benoit, Angela Labrador, Clement Vaillancourt, and Dwight Harrington attended the meeting. Carl Rogers, town manager, attended, and sexton Dwight Coffrin called in by phone.

AGENDA CHANGES - ADDITIONS

Details: Mr. Garceau made a motion to add a discussion item concerning sketches made to accompany the regulations on the sizes of stones, seconded by Mr. Harrington. With no further discussions, the motion carried on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Garceau made a motion, seconded by Ms. Labrador, to approve the agenda as written and amended by the addition of the sketches. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Labrador made a motion, seconded by Mr. Garceau, to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2020 meeting as written. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT

None this meeting. Town manager Rogers will have information on the ending of the previous fiscal year available for the September meeting.

RECEIVE GUESTS

None this meeting.

SEXTON REPORT

Mr. Coffrin reported there had been three interments, one full burial and two sets of cremains. Two lots have been sold, one three-grave, the other a two-grave lot, and the total sold for the current fiscal year is three lots. The crew has been mowing and trimming as needed, they have also begun to trim the shrubs and hedges. They also spent many hours removing the brush and debris from around the maintenance garage. Mr. Coffrin assisted Mr. Harrington during the month to finalize the layout for New Section C. He has ordered 200 marker pins for the survey. With the assistance of the Department of Public Works, the crew reset a 20-foot long granite foundation at Wilson. The marble monuments within the foundation will be reset and epoxied. There are three more granite foundations in the cemetery that need the same kind of work and the work will tentatively be done before the end of this year.

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. Final lot layout for New Section C. Mr. Rogers met with Chase and Chase Surveyors and gave them a copy of the sketch of the New Layout C. The layout is a combination of the previously proposed Option 1 and Option 1b and represents the continuation of the Grever and Ward layout with minor modifications. The surveyors said the work appeared to be basic and they would try to get the work done this year.
- B. Mr. Vaillancourt provided two separate sketches, one of a headstone, the other of a base, for possible inclusion in an information package concerning the sizes of monuments regulations. The sketches, to scale, represent the die and the base for a monument set on a single grave lot and are based on the current regulations. One suggestion as a change would put both sketches on one page with a prominent label to describe what it is. Ms. Labrador said the sketches were a good way to communicate the ideas with the public and also gave them a take away document. Notes could be added to help explain the process such as explaining the shape shown was not the only shape allowed. She also said the sketch could be attached to the one page summary of the sizing regulation. Mr. Benoit said the sketches make it easier for someone not familiar with headstones to understand the requirements. Mr. Garceau suggested a few labels such as "die" and "base" be added. Mr. Vaillancourt will continue to develop the sketches.

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NEW BUSINESS

- A. Bulk Trash Day. The town selectman have agreed to have the cemetery commission sponsor bulk trash day scheduled for September 19 at the town garage. Commission members able to attend should arrive at the town garage at 7 a.m. that morning to sign in and attend safety briefings. There will be two receiving stations set up in the yard. While in the building, the truck bay will be used to allow for more social distancing, but please wear a mask inside the facility. Wear of the mask out in the yard may not be needed. Patrons will be asked to wear masks and remain in their vehicles. Mr. Benoit will serve as the greeter for the commission and be stationed near the reception table.
- B. Private plantings at Maplewood Cemetery. Mr. Garceau began the discussion by mentioning a stone had fallen over at Maplewood and asked Mr. Coffrin to turn the stone over to face upward. Mr. Coffrin said the monument will be reset, but as epoxy is expensive and a single batch can do four stones, he will fix the stone when he does some others in the cemeteries. Mr. Garceau asked about the lilac near the Barber monument and Mr. Coffrin said it belonged to the cemetery. It is a unique species of lilac and the crew trims it back every few years or as needed. Another bush located near the raised bed containing the Ingalls monuments could be removed from the cemetery. In response to a question about the painting of the fence, Mr. Coffrin said he had contacted the contractor two weeks ago but not received a response. He will call again and said the work had been scheduled to begin last month.

As an aside to the conversation about shrubs, the commission discussed the removal of the dogwoods at the columbaria area at the Wilson Cemetery. Mr. Vaillancourt agreed they should be removed and Ms. Labrador reminded the commission that after the removal, another shrub such as an oriental lilac would be planted in its place. Mr. Coffrin said he would dig the plants out this fall and backfill with topsoil for the winter.

AROUND THE TABLE DISCUSSIONS

Ms. Labrador reported the issues she encountered last month on the cemetery portion of the town webpage had been corrected by Mr. Rogers and Elaine Wang and she thanked them.

Mr. Harrington outlined the events and people involved in the Graham – McLeod – Murray lots in Section E. The McLeod monument is in the Graham lot, a search of the vital records showed Lawrence Graham and Gertrude McLeod to be children of lot owner Alex Graham. The Graham monument is unique in the fact the back side of the stone is also the front side of the Murray lot, immediately adjacent to the Graham lot. Further research found the widow of Alex Graham and the widow of Norman Murray to be the same person despite the complete change in her name within the chain of vital records.

The story of the two-sided monument led to a general discussion of adding names to an existing monument in the cemetery, with or without an actual burial to accompany the name. The discussions determined the headstones could be modified by the owners provided the changes are approved by the commission and meet all regulations and requirements. The covers on the columbaria units belong to the town as the occupants reserve the space inside the niche forever but don't have any ownership in the structure.

Mr. Rogers asked the commission members if they had received their meeting packages okay. Mr. Harrington said he had submitted documents to the town but his emails kept landing in their junk mail. Commission members did receive their documents and Mr. Harrington asked Mr. Rogers to acknowledge the receipt of the minutes when submitted.

Mr. Benoit mentioned the brush area at the easterly side of Maplewood cemetery cleaned out a few years ago by some commission members was in need of mowing again. Mr. Coffrin said his crew would take care of it at the next mowing cycle at Maplewood.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for: September 23, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
Location: Room 3, Barre Town Municipal Office.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Garceau made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Benoit. With no further discussion, 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