

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR AUGUST 24, 2022 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: Angela Labrador, Alan Garceau, Kent Barcomb, Merle Miller, and Dwight Harrington were present; and town manager Carl Rogers and sexton Dwight Coffrin also attended.

AGENDA CHANGES - ADDITIONS

Mr. Rogers requested a discussion of the September 17 bulk trash collection under new business.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Labrador made a motion to approve the agenda as written with the addition of the bulk trash item, seconded by Mr. Garceau. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Garceau made a motion to approve the minutes of July 27, 2022 as written, seconded by Mr. Miller. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT

None this meeting.

RECEIVE GUESTS

None this meeting.

SEXTON REPORT

Mr. Coffrin presented the year-end report for Fiscal 2021/2022 for cemetery maintenance. There were 35 interments broken down into 10 full interment, 23 cremains in graves, and 2 cremations in niche or monument base. He sold 15 lots at Wilson Cemetery, 8 to residents and 7 to non-residents. The crew also installed 11 markers/posts and poured 6 monument foundations.

For the July/August period, the crew mowed and trimmed in the cemetery as needed, the sites are in drought conditions. Hedgerows are being planted in the New Section C of Wilson with the third one scheduled to be completed in the next two weeks. They are also planning to begin the fall trimming of the hedges. Once the trimming is complete, the crew will begin monument replacement and repairs and there are four more monument foundations to be poured. Mr. Coffrin also presented the commission with a work sheet for proposed price and rate increases for cemetery sales and operations to take effect October 1st if approved by the select board and the commission.

APPROVAL OF DEEDS AND MONUMENTS

A. Deeds:

- Randy Edmunds, Wilson Cemetery, Section New B, Lot 137, 10x8.
- Shirley A. and Durward Persons, Wilson Cemetery, Section New C Lot 242, 10x8, corrective.
- Shirley Persons, Wilson Cemetery, Section New C Lot 243, 10x8, corrective.

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- B. Niche reservation: None this meeting.
- C. Monuments:
 - William Chase, Wilson Cemetery, North Section, Lot 40w, 10x13.
- D. Niche covers: None this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Washington County Mental Health Services (WCMHS) site inspection, Gould Cemetery. Ms. Labrador, Mr. Garceau, Mr. Coffrin, and Mr. Harrington made a site inspection visit to the Gould Cemetery to assess what is needed to be done to restore the gravesite. Mr. Todd Parker of WCMHS served as the guide. Discussions included resetting the monuments and clearing away brush and debris from the site, work can be done in October of 2022. Mr. Coffrin wanted to know if topsoil could be added to the site, and Ms. Labrador said despite it being an archeological site, topsoil could be added to restore the grave to grade. She also recommended the slate stones be reset without the use of cement. The site repairs would be done in a manner to maintain the historic nature of the grave. The slate stones will be repaired as necessary before being reset in the soil.

B. Maplewood fence. Mr. Coffrin has been in contact with Matt Peake concerning the painting of the fence, Mr. Peake has also been in contact with Mr. Rogers. Mr. Peake said he would be unable to finish the work as he is too busy and has a lack of helpers. He did recommend Mr. John Pelkey to take over the project. Mr. Pelkey has visited Maplewood and would remove fence panels and take them to his shop to sandblast, prime, and paint the before resetting them at the cemetery. Some bolts may have to be cut and replaced during panel removal, the posts would remain at the cemetery and sandblasted and painted there. There are about 80 panels left to be painted, Mr. Pelkey gave a rough estimate of \$9,000 to \$10,000 to complete the work. Mr. Coffrin said shop painting would be a better method than trying to do all the work in the field and would not be dependent on the weather for the work to get done. Mr. Harrington asked about repainting the arch at the main gate, the posts may already be done, but the arch would have to be repaired and repainted as well.

No timeline has been established for the work. Mr. Rogers will review the funding for the fence repair to determine the dollar amount remaining for the work. Doing the work in the shop will save time for cemetery crew as they had been working in the field with Mr. Peake priming and painting; with Mr. Pelkey's proposal, field work would be limited to the fence posts. The town would furnish the paint as before. Mr. Rogers will contact Mr. Pelkey to obtain a price per panel and for work in the field needed to finish the project.

C. Investigation for new columbarium structure/COVID funds. The cemetery commission is on the agenda for the 30 August select board meeting. Ms. Labrador and Mr. Garceau will attend the meeting. Mr. Garceau will have information and rough estimates to build the third columbarium unit for a full granite construction and one using the aircraft aluminum niche inserts. A discussion took place concerning the construction of the aluminum inserts where bolt connection tabs prevent a full sized twelve-inch cremation urn from insertion into the niche. Mr. Garceau reminded the commission that Mr. Martel said the plans for our existing structures had been left at GIV when the company was sold to Polycor, but the plans have not been recovered as of this time. Final construction details would be worked out during any negotiations for the new structure.

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Ms. Labrador and Mr. Garceau will request approximately \$36,000 to build and set the third columbarium structure from the special COVID funds and would leave the present future construction fund in place as a starting point for the fourth unit planned for the future. The amount is based on inflation. Without the special funding, the commission would have to request a larger rate increase for niche reservations and make them fiscally unattractive to prospective clients. Another alternative would be to take a larger portion of the reservation fee and place it in the future construction fund which would have a negative effect on money raised for cemetery operations.

D. Fuller lot swap at Maplewood Cemetery. Mr. Coffrin will meet with Mr. Fuller in the Maplewood Cemetery on 25 August to discuss a proposal. One of the lots Mr. Fuller is interested in could have a one-foot-wide strip added to it to create an eight foot wide, two grave lot. He would then swap his current single grave lot located in Section North 1 for half of the new two grave lot and pay the regular rate for the other half of the new lot. Mr. Coffrin and Mr. Harrington discussed the issue in the field and determined the extra strip could be added. The row in question currently has layout issues that will require re-measuring and re-drafting when the schematics are updated in 2023 so the addition of the strip of land will have no effect on the rest of the row.

Ms. Labrador made a motion to allow Mr. Coffrin to make an 8 x 10 space for a two grave lot to allow Mr. Fuller to swap his single grave lot for half of the new space and buy the other half for his son at the single grave price. Mr. Barcomb seconded the motion and with no further discussions, the motion passed on a voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Bulk Trash. Mr. Rogers offered the cemetery commission sponsorship of the Bulk Trash Collection Day scheduled for 17 September. Members of the commission agreed, and Mr. Rogers will add the sponsorship to the select board agenda for their approval. Mr. Miller suggested using a handout at the front end of the check-in line to introduce the special projects done by the cemetery commission with the donations collected at the bulk trash event. Mr. Harrington will prepare the handout to be printed by the town.

AROUND THE TABLE DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Garceau reminded Mr. Coffrin of a cherry tree to be removed from Wilson Cemetery.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for: September 28, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.
Location: Room 3, Barre Town Municipal Office.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Ms. Labrador made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Miller. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Angela Labrador, Commission Chair
by Dwight D. Harrington, recorder