

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR JULY 26, 2023 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, Kent Barcomb, Brian Littlefield, and Dwight Harrington were present. Angela Labrador attended via "big screen" conference call. Town manager Chris Violette and sexton Dwight Coffrin also attended the meeting.

AGENDA CHANGES - ADDITIONS

None this meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Garceau made a motion to approve the agenda as written; seconded by Mr. Littlefield. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Barcomb made a motion to approve the minutes of June 28, 2023 as printed, seconded by Mr. Garceau. 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 a detailed report of the cemetery income for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2023. The report showed lot purchases, both by resident and non-resident categories; niche purchases, both by resident and non-resident categories; foundations installed; services by full interment, cremation, niche, and other with revenues for these categories; and setting of corner posts. He showed a gross amount of \$53,099, and the amount is subject to audit and possible corrections. Mr. Coffrin said this was the best year for the cemeteries he had seen, and when asked why, he replied the appearance of the cemeteries plays a big factor in most people's selection of their lot. Ms. Labrador said if the cemeteries continued with more sales, there would be more work, and the town should then consider increasing the size of the cemetery work crew.

Over the past month, Mr. Coffrin has sold more lots and participated in five interments. The continued rainy weather has prevented the installation of monument foundations. He also did one monument wash. Rain has also caused delays in mowing and trimming. Plans are being made to trim the hedges and plant more shrubs and hydrangea trees. Monument replacements will be made as time permits, and several more have been noted for repair and/or resetting in both Wilson and Maplewood Cemeteries. As for flood damage, the cemeteries were mostly unaffected. Water did pond in one area of Wilson and the lawn subjected to tire track damage, but it is minor and will recover on its own. A few of the newest graves had additional settling of the soil, the crew added more fill under the sod.

APPROVAL OF DEEDS AND MONUMENTS

A. Deeds:

-- Joyce Gillander, Wilson Cemetery, Section New C, Lot 257, 10 x 8

B. Niche reservation:

-- None this meeting.

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR JULY 26, 2023 MEETING
6:30 P.M., BARRE TOWN MUNICIPAL OFFICE

- C. Monuments:
-- None this meeting.
- D. Niche covers:
-- None this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Maplewood fence. Mr. Coffrin attempted to contact and meet with Mr. Senecal, but he was out of state and unavailable. Another attempt to contact him will be made in the near future. Mr. Garceau has been looking for information on what has been paid out previously on the project and found one entry from September of 2016 when \$5,895 was paid for repair and supplies. He did not find what amount from the original appropriation is left. Mr. Violette will make further inquiries into town records. Ms. Labrador has spoken previously concerning finding a grant to help defray the costs, but said with the recent destructive floods, grants might be difficult to come by. She will continue to monitor various sources of grant money.
- B. Columbarium 3 Status. The firm Buttura and Gherardi suffered some damage in their downtown facilities during the recent flood. Mr. Gherardi said the columbarium unit will be built and set in the late summer or early fall of this year. Specs for the pavers have been submitted and will also be ready when the new unit is set.
- C. Deed format changes. Town Clerk Tina Lunt revised the cemetery deed and sent it to the town attorney for his review. She sent copies via email to commission members once the final version became available. Commissioners reviewed the new deed and all had positive comments. The new deed will be go into use immediately.
- D. Washington County Mental Health site inspection – Gould Cemetery. Mr. Coffrin and Mr. Harrington visited the site on July 20 and found it to be in good condition and covered with much vegetation. Tie points are in place for the resetting of the headstone. Mr. Harrington said the item is on the agenda as the work needs to be completed this year, and as summer is not the ideal time to do the work, the commission should make plans to restore the site in the fall. Mr. Coffrin will be getting a diamond tipped saw for cutting stone, Mr. Garceau has one should the work be done before the new saw arrives. Mr. Violette printed and distributed a two-page document prepared by Mr. Harrington that showed current conditions as well as having a few site photos from past site inspections.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. None this meeting.

AROUND THE TABLE DISCUSSIONS

- A. Nothing this meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for: August 23, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
Location: Room 3, Barre Town Municipal Office.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Garceau made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Barcomb. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

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