

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 28, 2015 MEETING
6:30 P.M., BARRE TOWN MUNICIPAL OFFICE

CALL TO ORDER

Call to order at the town offices at 6:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commission members: Alan Garceau, Norman Coates, Merle Miller, Robert Benoit, and Dwight Harrington attended. Town Manager Carl Rogers, and sexton Dwight Coffrin also attended.

AGENDA CHANGES - ADDITIONS

Motion by Mr. Garceau to discuss issues in the Bates/Farrar lot, and Mrs. Linda Rochon was added to the list of guests.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Coates made a motion, seconded by Mr. Garceau, to approve the minutes of the September 23rd meeting as written. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT

Town Manager Rogers distributed copies of the latest budget numbers for the commission. The period covered the first four months of the fiscal year. Figures showed 50% of the cemetery revenues have been collected which is above projection for this time of year. That would put the cemetery commission in a good position in the spring of next year, the busiest time for cemetery business. Overall, revenues are on target. Expenses are on target as well. Small equipment purchases are running a deficit as a special tool for use in the cemetery was purchased but had not been included as a budget item. Other items such as insurance and benefits showed as high values as they are paid quarterly. Two quarters have been paid but the fiscal year is only one third complete.

RECEIVE GUESTS

Mr. William Hull appeared before the commission to gain permission to use the lot at Section G, Lot 203, Wilson Cemetery. The lot would be transferred to him by his brother-in-law, Earle Leonard Chaffee, and Mr. Hull had a quit claim deed drawn up for the lot transfer. The lot had belonged to Mr. Hull's sister, Linda Hull, and to their mother before that. Mr. Hull also presented a death certificate for Linda and a marriage certificate for Linda and Earle Chaffee to further prove ownership of the lot. Mr. Harrington made a motion to approve the lot transfer as presented, Mr. Coates seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote. The commission members signed copies of the quit claim deed, Mr. Hull will file the deed in the town clerk's office for inclusion in the cemetery deed book.

Mrs. Linda Rochon presented the commission with a deed for two graves of a six grave lot, Old Yard 2, Lot 323, and other documents showing the lot to be a gift of her mother to Linda and her brother Gary Button. The deeds show the lot to be owned by Hugh Lawson, Lot 323a, and Claude Stevens, Lot 323b. The two graves Mrs. Rochon referred to come from the Stevens portion of the lot, Mrs. Rochon's mother, Alberta Button purchased the graves from Anetia Stevens Nay as documented by a deed recorded in the cemetery Book 3, page 161-2. Mrs. Rochon also has a letter from her brother stating he does not want to share interest in the grave lots. The commission took the information and would, with the assistance of the sexton, conduct research to determine where the two graves are. If the lot can be transferred to Mrs. Rochon, commission members would sign the proper paper work when necessary during the off season for cemetery business. More to follow.

SEXTON REPORT

Mr. Coffrin reported the water had been shut off in the Wilson Cemetery, the trees and hedges trimmed, and vines had been removed from other vegetation. He planned to have the crew wrap certain fir trees

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in burlap for the winter to protect them from damage caused by deer. Mr. Coffrin requested the following items be added to the budget for next year:

1. \$700 for the purchase of 30 privet shrubs
2. \$600 for mulch to protect the new shrubs and other plantings in the cemetery
3. \$230 for a new push mower with mulching blade
4. \$900 for 60 bags of grub control to prevent further damage to the grounds at Wilson and Maplewood cemeteries

APPROVAL OF DEEDS AND MONUMENTS

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| A. | Deeds: | None this meeting |
| B. | Niche reservation: | James A. and Beverlee F. Lawson, niche A-11, Columbarium 2 |
| C. | Monuments: | Wayne H. and Dolores Burke, Wilson, Section North, Lot 30w
Lisa L. Namiot, Wilson, Section North, Lot 30w |
| D. | Niche covers: | None this meeting |

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Namiot and Burke markers (August minutes). The commission had tabled the review and approval of the marker shop drawings pending investigation of the lot size and rule compliance for the placement of the two markers. Mr. Coffrin determined the rules would not be violated by the placement of the markers. Commission members completed the review and signed off on the shop drawings. The Burkes would eventually be interred in the lot owned by Mrs. Doris Eastman, but Ms. Namiot would not. Both Burke and Namiot are children of Mrs. Eastman. The lot contains three graves, the Eastmans are in two of them, the third is open.
- B. Niche covers. In September, the commission signed off on the rule changes in regards to niche covers with the exception of a spelling error and a minor word change. Mr. Rogers showed commission members the re-writes of the rules they had requested. No further action was necessary as the commission had previously adopted the changes.
- C. Mr. Harrington reported he had laid out the second box of lots in the Maplewood Cemetery. The lots would end about 10 feet from the existing property line. The adjoining property owner asked if there were zoning requirements for the cemetery, Mr. Rogers would check with Chris Violette to verify if requirements existed.
- D. Mr. Coffrin reported the changes to the graphics and wording in the sexton's work form had been accomplished, no further action was necessary as the commission had previously adopted the work form for general usage at the September meeting.
- E. Mr. Harrington handed out the final list of the stones selected for replacement along with photographs of the stones and areas adjacent to them. The documents included research conducted to determine the correct spelling of names, the correct dates, and the age of the person, all information to be put on the replacement stones. The research represents the best available evidence for the information. The list will be passed to Mr. Jeff Martel for the manufacture of the stones over the winter season. Mr. Garceau and Mr. Harrington will meet with Mr. Coffrin in the cemeteries for the final location stake-out of the replacement stones already in the possession of the town.

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- F. Maplewood fence. Town Manager Rogers reported the grant application had been submitted on schedule, the decision of the grant authority should be forthcoming in the next few months.
- G. Maplewood brush cleanup efforts. Mr. Garceau, Mr. Benoit, and Mr. Harrington worked a portion of a day in the cemetery to remove brush. The crew removed brush and took down some trees along the east – west property line at the north end of Maplewood thereby exposing the old granite posts of the fence line. The commission wishes to thank the cemetery crew for hauling the brush to the disposal facility. More work will be needed; the volunteers would work another day in the spring. Mr. Rogers said public works director Richard Tetreault could provide chainsaw support during the winter months; perhaps during a period of time the roads did not need to be plowed. Mr. Garceau would meet with Mr. Tetreault to mark the trees to be removed.
- H. Town Manager Rogers asked the commission for its opinion concerning the Russell Slora lot at Maplewood Cemetery. An error in the deed assigned them Lot 31 in the front section, the same lot assigned to Mr. Malcolm Hayward. The Sloras met with some commission members in the cemetery and identified their lot as Lot 33. Town Clerk Donna Kelty consulted with town attorney Michael Monte, he suggested that Mr. and Mrs. Slora quit claim the lot back to the town and the town would give them a new deed for Lot 33. The commission suggested the town simply issue a corrective deed changing the number from Lot 31 to Lot 33 thereby keeping the involvement and inconvenience of Mr. and Mrs. Slora to a minimum. Mr. Rogers would research the use of a corrective deed.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Last meeting of the cemetery year: the commission determined their work to be done for this cemetery year and there will not be a need for another meeting until April of 2016. Members would be available throughout the winter season for signatures and other needs as required.
- B. Special budget issues. Town Manager Rogers has obtained a price to clean miscellaneous granite pieces around the town, among them is the granite sign for the Wilson Cemetery. Mr. Dennis Beaudin would clean the sign for \$65. He would also clean the columbaria facility including the two structures and associated items for \$450.

The town would budget for the additional costs to repair the fence at Maplewood Cemetery beyond the grant. Mr. Miller reminded the commission the grant was a “reimbursement grant,” the town would have to pay the entire bill, the grant, if approved would reimburse 50% of the cost as outlined in the grant application.

Town Manager Rogers will ask the public works director Richard Tetreault to prepare an estimate to repair and refurbish the gravel road at the Maplewood Cemetery. The work would use crushed gravel and maintain the general width and position of the existing gravel driveway.

- C. Mr. Garceau began a discussion concerning the corner posts in the Bates- Farrar lot in Wilson Cemetery. The lot is located in Old Yard 3, Lot 5.03. The existing corner posts do not meet the rules. They are round, have raised letters, and rise up out of the ground rather than set even with ground level as required. As the blue pearl granite posts do not meet the rules, it can be surmised that the cemetery workers did not set them, another violation of the rules. Mr. Garceau would like to prepare a letter to the owners of the lot to have the posts removed. Commission members will look at the posts in the cemetery and discussions will continue next cemetery season.

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AROUND THE TABLE DISCUSSIONS

Town Manager Rogers informed the commission the door on the vault at Wilson Cemetery was scheduled to be replaced during the budget year 2016-2017. The costs would be paid for through the town's five year building plan and not cemetery funds.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for: 27 April 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Coates made a motion, seconded by Mr. Miller, to adjourn. The motion carried on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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