

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 23, 2019 MEETING  
6:30 P.M., BARRE TOWN MUNICIPAL OFFICE

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CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Commission members: Alan Garceau, Norman Coates, Robert Benoit, Angela Labrador, and Dwight Harrington in attendance. Carl Rogers, town manager, and sexton Dwight Coffrin also attended.

AGENDA CHANGES - ADDITIONS

Details: Mr. Rogers added a short budget presentation.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Harrington made a motion, seconded by Mr. Coates, to approve the agenda as amended. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Coates made a motion, seconded by Mr. Garceau, to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2019 meeting as written. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT

Town Manager Rogers introduced the commission to a new style budget report being developed by the contractor providing accounting services to the town. He will be working with the accountant to make the information presented more usable and friendlier to the users.

RECEIVE GUESTS

Randy Pickell concerning the condition of the maple trees near the Wilson Cemetery vault. Details presented below at Old Business, Item B.

SEXTON REPORT

Mr. Coffrin reported the monument foundations reviewed last meeting had been installed. Working with Dennis Beaudin, the foundation for the Booe monument has been removed and replaced, the monument re-set. The foundation had failed, the investigation revealed the foundation excavation had been filled with stones and only capped off with concrete instead of being concrete throughout. At Wilson Cemetery, the shrubs have been trimmed and the oversized spruce tree removed down to the stump. The crew began straightening some of the monuments that have settled or began tipping. Future work will include the aeration of the lawns within Wilson. Leaf removal and mulching has begun at Wilson and at West Hill. Three dead or dying trees have been removed. Mr. Coffrin has ordered the metal detector authorized by the commission during the previous meeting. The vault doors will be sandblasted and painted beginning on Friday the 25th.

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. Survey request for Wilson Cemetery, New Section C: the commission began a discussion concerning the choice of survey layout in New Section C. There are three options presented, the final design will be furnished to local surveyors for layout on the ground. Ms. Labrador addressed the landscaping issues of the various options. The commission decided the choice should address the amount of landscaping maintenance that would be required. Ms. Labrador also discussed the current trends in burials, traditional versus cremations. Mr. Garceau made a count for the number of graves per option, Option 2 offered the most with 120 graves. Mr. Harrington offered to provide another layout that combined the original Grever and Ward cemetery layout plan with the minor modifications requested by Mr. Coffrin.

During the discussion, Mr. Rogers suggested the commission obtain an estimate for the survey and decide the final layout at an on-site commission meeting in the spring of 2020. The commission opted to get the estimate on Option 2, the one with the most corner pins required. Mr. Garceau made a motion to move forward with the estimate based on Option 2 and table the choice of the final layout until spring. Mr. Coates seconded the motion and with no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote. Mr. Harrington offered to send Mr. Rogers a printable computer file of his modifications based on the Grever and Ward layout for US mail distribution to other commission members.

Also during the discussion, Mr. Garceau raised the issue of upright monuments in the Grever and Ward layout and access to the interior portions of the cemetery. The Grever and Ward layout, originally designed in 1977, showed sections that allowed flush markers only, cemetery

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operations have not followed that concept. Further study will be needed to determine if any restrictions will be required in future section layouts.

- B. Condition of maple trees near the Wilson Cemetery vault: Mr. Randy Pickell, local tree service expert, has inspected the maple trees near the cemetery vault, both with foliage and without. He presented photos of the trees for commission review while he described his findings. He inspected eight trees and recommended the removal of at least three with trimming to be done in the others. He also recommended that no cables be added to support the trees. Mr. Pickell gave the commission an preliminary estimate for \$7,200 to cut three trees down as close to the ground as possible and trim other trees. He said it would be \$1,000 more to take down a fourth tree. Mr. Pickell will provide a formal estimate to Mr. Coffrin, the estimate will be used to create a budget item for the 2020 – 2021 fiscal year. The commission thanks Mr. Pickell for his time.
- C. Fence at Maplewood: Mr. Coffrin reported two more sections of the fence has been completed. He has been trying to communicate Mr. Peake to finish the sections being worked on along Farwell Street this season, but has not received any return communication. Mr. Coffin intends to have Mr. Peake start earlier in the year next construction season.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- A. Compile a list of CAD drawing changes from cemetery year 2019: Mr. Harrington addressed the issue of preserving changes made in the cemeteries that would be made in the updates to the cemetery schematics, the next scheduled for 2023. He asked Mr. Coffrin if he would meet with him after the close of cemetery season to prepare a bulleted list of changes that would be made in a CAD update based on his marked up copies of his current set of schematics. The list would be preserved in the town office until such time the CAD changes are solicited. Mr. Coffrin agreed to meet sometime in November.
- B. Rules and regulation changes in New Sections to be made in 2020: Mr. Harrington suggested to the commission consider changing the cemetery rules at the start of the next cemetery season. Rule modifications could be used to document changes within the cemetery before the same changes would be made to the schematics in the 2023 CAD updates. Items to be addressed might include plantings and possible monument restrictions in the new sections.
- C. George lot buy-back: [*Book 3, Page 292; George, Donald and Alita; Wilson Cemetery; New B, Lot 453a; 8 x 10; 28 May 2008; \$990 purchase price in 2008.*] Cemetery rules allow the commission to buy back lots, but at 20% less than the original purchase price. Mr. George also had granite cemetery posts installed for \$50 and requested the return of the posts and refund of the fee. The commission deemed the fee non-refundable as it paid for the labor to install the posts and the work had been performed. The buyback price would be about \$792, any expenses incurred would be the responsibility of Mr. George, and the transfer done with a quit claim deed, George to the Town of Barre. George's name would be removed from the Wilson Cemetery schematic and the lot changed back to "available." Mr. Garceau made a motion to allow Mr. George to pursue the buyback at 80% of the original lot price, and the corner posts would be returned to him. Mr. Coates seconded the motion and with no further discussion, the motion passed on a voice vote.

#### AROUND THE TABLE DISCUSSIONS

On behalf of the commission, Mr. Garceau relayed a thank you to Mr. Coffrin and the cemetery crew for another successful cemetery season.

#### NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for: April 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.  
Place: Room 3, Barre Town Municipal Office, Websterville.

#### MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Garceau made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Coates. The motion carried on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Alan Garceau, Chairman  
by Dwight D. Harrington, recorder