

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR May 27, 2020 MEETING
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, and Dwight Harrington participated. Carl Rogers, town manager, and sexton Dwight Coffrin also participated.

AGENDA CHANGES - ADDITIONS

Details: addition of a review of two niche covers, Anita and Donald Murray, and addition of a budget review by Town Manager Rogers. Mr. Garceau made a motion to accept the changes as shown above, Mr. Harrington seconded the motion. With no further discussion, 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 with the additions. 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 April 22, 2020 meeting as written. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT

Town Manager Rogers produced the revenue and expense sheets for the current budget year for review by the cemetery commission. The budget year will expire at the end of next month. He said the revenues for lot sales and services will exceed budgeted amounts, and with the addition of upcoming property tax and interest funds, the cemetery budget year should end with a surplus. On the expense side, wages paid are below budget and the town equipment charges have not been transferred. The remainder of the major expenses have been paid for the budget year. The budget year should end with some money budgeted for expenses remaining in the account. Mr. Benoit and Mr. Rogers discussed the effects of the Covid 19 restrictions on the payment of property taxes, Mr. Rogers predicted the amount of unpaid taxes would be twice the usual amount.

RECEIVE GUESTS

None this meeting.

SEXTON REPORT

Mr. Coffrin reported a slow start to the cemetery season due to May snows. Six interments had been scheduled but only four, all cremains, took place. Eight more interments have been scheduled but subject to change with Covid 19 issues to consider. The cemetery crew straightened about 36 monuments in Wilson, Maplewood, and West Hill cemeteries. They also removed the trash, debris, and brush that normally builds up over the winter. The crew took the burlap from the shrubs placed there to protect them from deer over the winter. For the most part, the burlap protected the shrubs except in areas where the deer could get up and under it, this will be addressed next season. The cemeteries had been mowed and trimmed at least twice before Memorial Day, Mr. Coffrin complimented his crew on their excellent work and appearance of the cemeteries saying the town cemeteries looked the best in the area. Mr. Coffrin mentioned the proposed creation of a new, two-grave lot near an existing Raycraft lot for purchase by a family member, discussed here under new business. The new shrubs planted last summer in the Wilson Cemetery have returned to life and appear hearty and vigorous. No new foundation orders have been placed. Mr. Coffrin said the improved weather of the past week have brought the lawns back to life, but with a predicted dry spell, grass growth could slow again.

APPROVAL OF DEEDS AND MONUMENTS

A. Deeds: none this meeting.

B. Niche reservation: none this meeting.

C. Monuments: none this meeting.

D. Niche covers:

-- Anita P. Murray and Donald J. Murray, covers for Columbarium 4, Side B, Niches 16 and 17

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR May 27, 2020 MEETING
HOME BASED CONFERENCE CALL

The cemetery sexton and commission chair both reviewed the drawings for conformance with the rules and found them to be in compliance. Mr. Garceau made a motion to approve the drawings for the Murray niche covers, Mr. Harrington seconded the motion. With no further discussions, the motion carried on a voice vote. Mr. Garceau and Mr. Harrington signed the approval on the drawings, they will be returned to the client.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Thank you letter from the commission to Joe Coates. A letter had been prepared and signed by commission chair, Mr. Garceau and sent to Mr. Coates. The agenda for the May meeting had a copy of the letter attached for review.
- B. Remember to vote. Annual election and budgetary vote to be held on June 2, 2020. Mail-in ballots or drive through voting available.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Proposed Raycraft lot creation. The sexton made a request to create a new, two-grave lot adjacent to an existing lot owned by Allen H. Raycraft, Wilson Cemetery, Section A, Lot 5bw. The proposed lot would be purchased by a Raycraft family member. Cemetery Sexton Coffrin investigated the site and determined no previous burials have been made in the area and discovered only rocks and smaller tree roots by probing the site. The schematics show the area to be undeveloped and not set aside for any other purpose. During the discussion, Mr. Coffrin said the roots he found were not main roots for the nearby maple tree scheduled to be trimmed, but rather feeder roots. In his sexton's report, he stated he had also researched available cemetery records and determined there is no record of the land being sold to anyone else. Town Manager Rogers suggested the areas at the ends of the two adjacent rows be investigated for possible use should the lot addition be approved to keep the three rows in the section even. Mr. Harrington made a motion to allow for the creation of a new two-grave lot next to the existing Raycraft lot for possible use by a family member. Mr. Garceau seconded the motion, and with no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote. Mr. Harrington will supply the lot number to the sexton.
- B. Proposed rules for subdivision or creation of lots in the cemeteries. The issue has been tabled until the next cemetery commission meeting.

AROUND THE TABLE DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Harrington thanked the cemetery crew for the excellent appearance of the cemeteries over the Memorial Day weekend despite the shorter than normal time frame for cemetery work.

Mr. Garceau said the Flags for Veterans organization and several volunteers placed the flags in the town cemeteries for Memorial Day. He also mentioned the upcoming Bulk Trash Day.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for: June 24, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Tentative location: Room 3, Barre Town Municipal Office, Websterville.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Garceau made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Benoit. The motion carried on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

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