

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR JUNE 24, 2020 MEETING  
TOWN OFFICE and/or HOME BASED CONFERENCE CALL

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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, Robert Benoit, Angela Labrador, and Dwight Harrington attended the meeting. Carl Rogers, town manager, attended, and sexton Dwight Coffrin phoned in.

AGENDA CHANGES - ADDITIONS

Details: Mr. Garceau requested the addition of three items, cutting the maple trees near the vault at Wilson Cemetery, the flags at the cemeteries, and monument replacements. Mr. Harrington made a motion to include the items, seconded by Mr. Garceau, and 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 amended with the additions. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Garceau made a motion, seconded by Ms. Labrador, to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2020 meeting as written. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT

None this meeting.

RECEIVE GUESTS

Clement Vaillancourt, a prospective member of the Cemetery Commission attended the meeting as an observer.

SEXTON REPORT

From a list provided in an email: Mr. Coffrin reported the cemetery office building had been painted and brush and tree removal there has begun. General maintenance continues and the lawns mowed and trimmed once per week, but this work has been suspended due to the current drought conditions. Over at Maplewood, the newly planted maple tree is being watered twice a week until the current drought conditions end. At West Hill, the shrubs will be trimmed and overhanging tree branches removed. Overall shrub and hedge trimming will begin in the fall. Among other items addressed, the flag pole light at Wilson Cemetery has been repositioned and a flag pole light installed at the town office flag pole. Five interment services have been held for the month, one full burial, two columbarium interments, and two in-ground. Several more interments have been scheduled for the summer season. A single grave lot has been sold and a two grave lot sale is pending. One grass level marker has been installed. Over the phone, Mr. Coffrin mentioned that flowers had been donated by someone at the columbaria site and thanked the unknown donor. He also reported the vault door at the Wilson Cemetery had been painted, the gold leaf done, and the job completed. The painting of the fence at Maplewood is scheduled to resume in two weeks. Mr. Garceau asked that some stray maple trees that had begun to grow among the shrubbery be removed.

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  
Dorothy Elliott, Columbarium 2, Side A, Niche 18. The lettering on the top line, "Elliott" is shown as two inches tall on the sketch, the maximum letter height allowed in the regulations is one and three quarter inches, the remainder of the cover meets regulations. The sketch will be returned to Mr. Coffrin with the discrepancy noted. No further action taken on the niche cover.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Final lot layout for New Section C. The cemetery budget has been passed by the voters of Barre Town, Mr. Harrington discussed the three options for the layout of the new section at Wilson Cemetery. He told the commission they were not limited to these three options, the final layout could be done with a red pen and furnished to the surveyor hired for the work. Mr. Harrington described each of the three layouts and their relationship to the original Grever and Ward design for the New Section. Ms. Labrador reminded the commission that during discussions last fall, it had been determined Layout 1 did not work well for the sexton due to lot access issues. Option 2 presented too many rows of shrubbery and would create extra work for

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the maintenance crew. Option 1a had been superseded by 1b, and Option 1b could work. Mr. Garceau said planting trees in the burial areas could present an issue due to root growth and other planting might be more suitable. Mr. Coffrin had some alternative in mind and also wanted to eliminate cedars which are subject to damage by deer. Mr. Rogers suggested Mr. Coffrin explore the alternative trees that might be acceptable with a local landscaper. Mr. Garceau also discussed leaving the shrubbery out of some of the layouts proposed and arrange the monuments back to back. His proposed layout included five sections arranged in a 21 – 18 – 21 – 18 – 21 lot blocks, this would push the section an additional four feet towards the cemetery garage, but the additional distance would not present an issue. Mr. Harrington reminded the commission the discussion was to bring the layout issue back to the table and members should visit the cemetery to see the site and speak to Mr. Coffrin about maintenance requirements. The commission agreed to hold the July meeting at the cemetery garage at Wilson Cemetery.

- B. Maple trees near the Wilson vault. Now that the budget has been passed, the cutting of the trees could be done. Mr. Pickell had modified his estimate to \$5,600 from the initial \$7,200. Mr. Coffrin said Mr. Pickell would do the work in the August timeframe.
- C. Cemetery flags. Mr. Garceau asked Mr. Coffrin about the flags used on the main flag poles and suggested he keep a spare on hand at all times. Mr. Coffrin said he purchases new flags each year and would obtain a spare.
- D. Stone replacement. Mr. Garceau asked about stone replacements, particularly for Lawson and Dexter. No new stone replacements had been added to the budget for this coming budget year, and the two mentioned would be the first to be added to any list of replacements. Money for replacements would need to be added to the next budget year request.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- A. Elections. Annual elections held for commission chair, vice chair, and recorder. Additionally, the schedule of meetings was adopted.

Meeting schedule: Mr. Garceau made a motion to hold the meetings of the Cemetery Commission on the fourth Wednesday of each month between April and October, or as needed, to commence at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion, and with no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

Commission chair: Mr. Harrington nominated Mr. Garceau for commission chair, Ms. Labrador seconded. A call for further nominations brought no other nominees. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

Recorder: Mr. Garceau nominated Mr. Harrington for recorder, Mr. Benoit seconded. A call for further nominations brought no other nominees. With no further discussions, the motion carried on a voice vote.

Commission vice chair: Mr. Garceau nominated Ms. Labrador for commission vice chair, Mr. Harrington seconded. A call for further nominations brought no other nominees. With no further discussions, the motion carried on a voice vote.

#### AROUND THE TABLE DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Garceau said that during culvert replacement on Quarry Hill Road in front of the cemetery, traffic had been re-routed across the cemetery driveway in front of the Wilson vault. As the driveways are not designed for heavy traffic, he said there was potential damage from some heavy trucks, including 14-wheel dump trucks. No one else at the meeting could add details but agreed the detour should not have happened.

#### NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for: July 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Tentative location: Maintenance garage, Wilson Cemetery, Websterville.

#### MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Benoit made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Garceau. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

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