

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR JULY 22, 2020 MEETING
6:30 P.M., MAINTENANCE GARAGE, WILSON CEMETERY, WEBSTERVILLE

CALL TO ORDER

Call to order at the maintenance garage, Wilson Cemetery, at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commission members: Alan Garceau, Robert Benoit, Angela Labrador, Clement Vaillancourt, and Dwight Harrington attended the meeting. Carl Rogers, town manager, and sexton Dwight Coffrin attended.

AGENDA CHANGES - ADDITIONS

Details: none this meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Garceau made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to approve the agenda as presented. 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 June 24, 2020 meeting as written. 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 reported seventeen total interments for FY 2019 – 2020 including three full grave, eleven cremains, and three niche entombments. The crew also installed seven monument foundations, and there were six lots and five niches purchased. He also discussed the COVID 19 effects on the scheduling of burials, many have been pushed later into the summer, five in July. Two maple tree saplings and two shrubs have been removed from Wilson. The cemetery crew has been mowing and trimming as needed, but their work has been effected by the current drought conditions. Dry conditions required extra watering of the recently planted tree at Maplewood. The mowers have been cleaned, serviced and new blades installed. Mr. Coffrin finished the billing and other records for FY 2019 – 2020. The crew reset a monument that had apparently been struck by a vehicle. The heavy stone had been moved off its foundation but otherwise undamaged. Mr. Coffrin notified the Barre Town Police about the incident.

APPROVAL OF DEEDS AND MONUMENTS

A. Deeds: Deborah A. Jewett, East Section, Lot E-174, single grave.

B. Niche reservation: Dorothy Elliott, Columbarium 2, Side A, Niche 18.

C. Monuments: Deborah A. Jewett, East Section, Lot E-174, single grave. The furnished sketch showed the base to be two inches short, two inches short on the die, did not show a thickness of the die, and did not present the proposed text as required by the cemetery regulations. The sketch will be returned for more detail. A discussion took place on enforcement of the regulations, Mr. Vaillancourt stressed the need to enforce written regulations. Mr. Garceau said that the regulations had not always been enforced and past sextons did not always follow them. Ms. Labrador said as the regulations are publically available, they should be followed. Mr. Rogers asked if it would be helpful to have sketches to go with the size tables to further define the minimum dimensions for the monuments. Mr. Vaillancourt, a monument dealer, agreed sketches would make it easier to visualize the monument sizes and he offered to have one of his draftsmen work something up.

D. Niche covers: none this meeting

OLD BUSINESS

A. Final lot layout for New Section C. Earlier in the week, Mr. Harrington and Mr. Coffrin roughed out the Grever and Ward layout for the proposed Section C using stakes and flagging tape. The

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group met in the area to discuss the layout and the plantings and shrubbery. Mr. Coffrin said the layout provided easy access and would be easy for all to work with. Mr. Garceau explored an alternative that would have three larger blocks and two narrower blocks alternating in the new area, this would break up the clustering of the rows of shrubs. The change would add four feet to the overall length of Section C. A change to the Grever and Ward layout resulted a third planting area. The group moved to Section A to view the Grever and Ward layout being used there. Mr. Coffrin explained how the layout, which included a lot bound by others that did not have a proper location for a monument without resulting in a grave that would have to be dug by hand. He suggested that instead of converting the lot to a third planting, it could be used for cremations only and would only allow flat markers. Each of the commissioners expressed opinions on using the layout.

Mr. Harrington made a motion to adopt what has been proposed as Layout 1 to preserve the Grever and Ward layout used in the area and to allow small changes to the layouts as needed on the interior layouts, Ms. Labrador seconded the motion. Mr. Garceau expressed concerns about the size of the plantings that might be used and the possibilities of putting single graves along the driveway. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote. Mr. Harrington would get extra copies of the layouts from the town and make any necessary adjustments so Mr. Coffrin could contact the surveyor.

While in the area of the columbaria park, Mr. Coffrin asked about removing the existing dogwoods and perhaps substituting oriental lilacs or boxwood. He said the dogwoods were susceptible to attack by spittle bugs each year. He broke off one small branch to show a spittle bug already attached. The commission will take up the issue at a later meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A. None this meeting.

AROUND THE TABLE DISCUSSIONS

Ms. Labrador reported two of the links to the schematics of the Old Yard areas of Wilson Cemetery did not work on the town webpage. She reported the issue on-line and will send an email to Mr. Rogers verifying the links that do not work.

Mr. Garceau said the ceremony to present the Wendell Pelkey award to former commission member Joe Coates had taken place and an article appeared in the local paper two days later.

Mr. Harrington received an information request from the librarian of the Vermont Historical Society with regards to Revolutionary War gravesites in Chittenden County. He had been contacted through his affiliation with the Flags for Veterans organization in Barre, a group often mistaken for a statewide group. He made the point that others still came to the local cemetery commissions for information.

Mr. Garceau officially welcomed Mr. Vaillancourt to the commission.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for: August 26, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Tentative location: 6:30 p.m., Room 3, Barre Town Municipal Office

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Vaillancourt 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 7:55 p.m.

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