

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 28, 2020 MEETING
TOWN OFFICE and/or 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, Clement Vaillancourt, and Dwight Harrington attended the meeting. Dwight Coffrin, sexton, attended, and town manager Carl Rogers called in by phone.

AGENDA CHANGES - ADDITIONS

Details: None this meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Harrington noted Mr. Garceau's name needed to be added to the September minutes at the third item, "Agenda Changes – Additions." Mr. Garceau made a motion, seconded by Ms. Labrador, to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2020 meeting as written and with the correction. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT

No budget report presented this meeting.

RECEIVE GUESTS

None this meeting.

SEXTON REPORT

Mr. Coffrin gave a summary of services to date with twelve interments including nine cremains and three full burials; seven lots sold plus another sold today, five foundations installed, seven markers installed, and three columbarium interments made.

The flag and flag pole light in Wilson had been damaged in the recent wind storm, the flag would need to be replaced and the light could be repaired. Flag quality has been going down and they don't last as long as they used to. Wilson requires a 5 x 8 flag, other locations use 3 x 5 flags. The flags had been purchased locally, Mr. Garceau would check alternate sources for flag purchases.

Burlap had become difficult to obtain due to COVID issues and prices are up. A general discussion took place about using a more expensive orange snow fence instead to protect shrubs from animal damage, and Ms. Labrador offered the name of the source she uses for burlap.

Mr. Coffrin presented an estimate for various plantings to replace dogwoods at the columbaria site and for general use in the cemetery. He noted the prices presented would only be in force for thirty days but he would not be ready to order until next year.

The crew has epoxied and reset five broken tablets, three at Wilson and two at Maplewood. They also reset some 24 to 30 tablets that had fallen or were tipping in both cemeteries.

Also, two additional sections of fence, two gate doors, and half the entry have been sandblasted and painted at Maplewood, the work will have to be continued next year. Mr. Randy Pickell will attempt to reach the highest dead branches in trees he recently trimmed, in the upcoming spring. The water at Wilson has been turned off for the season. Mr. Coffrin said foundations would be poured tomorrow.

APPROVAL OF DEEDS AND MONUMENTS

A. Deeds:

William I. and Linda L. John, Section South2, Lot 21, 10x7, Maplewood Cemetery

Alfred Blakey and Brenda Zampiere, South 2, Lot 28, 10x6, Maplewood Cemetery

Erwin R. and Ramona J. Waibel, Section New-B, Lot 447-1/2, 10x8, Wilson Cemetery

G. John Lawson, Kim M. Benson, and Bridgett C. Apfel, Section New-B, Lot 141, 10x8, Wilson Cemetery

B. Niche reservation: Dale Finck, Columbarium 4, Side B, Niche 20

C. Monuments:

William I. and Linda L. John, Section South2, Lot 21, Maplewood Cemetery

Wayne and Eleanor Lawrence, Section New-B, Lot 160, Wilson Cemetery

Pamella C. and G. John Lawson, Section New-B, Lot 141. Wilson Cemetery

D. Niche covers:

Earl R. and Adrienne L. Rudd, Columbarium 2, Side A, Niche 5

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 28, 2020 MEETING
TOWN OFFICE and/or HOME BASED CONFERENCE CALL

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Monument sketches. Mr. Vaillancourt presented the final versions for the die and for the base. They are generic and Mr. Coffrin will be able to fill in the dimensions as needed per lot size. Mr. Harrington suggested adding a note to the sketch stating all proposed monuments required cemetery commission approval.
- B. Dogwood replacement at columbaria site. Mr. Coffrin presented a list and estimate for possible replacements in his sexton's report. He intends to replace four of them in the spring, all are still in place for over the winter.
- C. Gravestone replacements. Town Manager Rogers told the commission it had \$3,300 in the donation account available for use. Mr. Harrington had prepared a list of eleven stones that needed to be replaced along with the research documentation and suggested wording for each replacement. Mr. Coffrin said the Eunice Walker stone could be trimmed at the tablet and at the base and reassembled with epoxy. He said the repair might last five years. He also suggested looking into buying blank replacement tablets and have the lettering added later for any that might need to be replaced in the future. Ms. Labrador asked about preserving the documentation concerning the monuments already replaced. She suggested keeping the text documents as well as all photos in their original format, and offered her expertise for archiving the documents. In a separate question, Ms. Labrador said some of the old gravestones have the name of the carver near the bottom. She asked if the gravestone stems had been inspected at the time of removal, but they had been marble and mostly deteriorated. Ms. Labrador offered to photograph future removals as gravestones are replaced. Mr. Garceau made a motion to replace all eleven gravestones and to look into purchasing blanks, seconded by Mr. Harrington. He would place the order soon to ensure they were in the system before the end of the year, Mr. Harrington said he wanted to review them one more time before they went to the manufacturer. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.
- D. Budget suggestions. Mr. Coffrin said the crew needed a new hedge trimmer to be shared with the recreation department. He also said holes in some of the driveway pavement needed to be filled. He would work with another town employee to locate and mark areas to be filled so a cost estimate could be prepared, the pavement survey to be done sometime next month. Mr. Harrington asked about stump removal in the cemetery to smooth out the terrain for ease of care by the maintenance crew. Mr. Garceau said budgets would be tight next year due to COVID issues and requests should be kept at a minimum. As an example, he said Flags for Veterans would probably not be asking for funds for next year.
- E. Fence at Maplewood. Mr. Coffrin addressed the issue in his sexton's report.
- F. Culvert cover repair. Mr. Garceau said a slab of granite would be needed to cover the culvert inlet and be about 2 ft. by 3 ft. in size and about 2 to 3 inches thick. He has been looking for a suitable piece of granite but hasn't found one yet. Mr. Vaillancourt said he would look for a cover piece as well.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Thank you letters. Mr. Harrington said many local businesses and individuals had been offering materials, equipment, and general assistance to the cemetery workers at no charge. He suggested compiling a list of names and thank you letters sent out. He volunteered to work with Mr. Coffrin on the list and prepare the letters. The letters would go to Mr. Rogers' office for printing on letterhead, and Mr. Garceau would sign them on behalf of the commission.
- B. Flagpole light at Maplewood. Due to the remote location of the cemetery and the short flag pole, the addition of the light might become a theft issue. Federal rules require flags displayed at night to be lit, further discussions are needed concerning this issue.
- C. Brush removal at Maplewood. Mr. Garceau asked the brush along the west property line of Maplewood Cemetery be removed. The brush removal and exposure of the granite post fence along the north line turned out well, the same type of fence exists along the western line. Also, Mr. Garceau asked that the bush be removed from the Ingalls lot in Maplewood, it had overgrown the granite curb surrounding the lot.

AROUND THE TABLE DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Harrington shared a 1944 obituary for Mrs. William G. Rogers, buried at Wilson, stating there would be a private funeral for her, and WDEV radio carried it live so her husband's shut-in sister could hear it. Another article, from two months later, showed Mr. William G. Rogers moved his family monument from Washington to Wilson Cemetery.

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 28, 2020 MEETING
TOWN OFFICE and/or HOME BASED CONFERENCE CALL

Mr. Garceau thanked the commission, Mr. Coffrin, and the cemetery work crew for their work this year. He said commission attendance to be excellent and Mr. Coffrin and the crew did a great job in the cemeteries. Mr. Garceau also wished all a good winter and would see everyone next year.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for: April 28, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
Location: 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 7:42 p.m.

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