

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR MAY 26, 2021 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, Angela Labrador, Robert Benoit, and Dwight Harrington attended the meeting, Clement Vaillancourt was absent. Town manager Carl Rogers and Dwight Coffrin, sexton, also attended.

AGENDA CHANGES - ADDITIONS

Details: Mr. Rogers had sent a request from Alice Dickinson to ask the commission to buy back the cemetery lot she and her late husband own. With no further discussion, the item was added to the agenda by Mr. Garceau.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Garceau made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harrington, to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2021 meeting as written. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT

None this meeting. Mr. Garceau asked Town Manager Rogers about the new format for the budget report distributed at the April commission meeting and more particularly addressed errors in postings. Mr. Rogers said the report is based on data entered by various individuals. Mr. Garceau pointed to the lot sale information under revenues that was in error on the April report. Mr. Rogers told the commission he takes the payment checks to the town clerk, but on other documents there sometimes is no clear account marked for proper entry into the system. Mr. Coffrin described his procedures for marking lot invoices. Corrections will be made.

RECEIVE GUESTS

None this meeting.

SEXTON REPORT

Mr. Coffrin gave his summary on a handout. Total service to date in the 2020 – 2021 fiscal year stand at 16 with more scheduled. He has sold two lots, made one niche reservation, and has two foundation requests. Mr. Ray Brown has been keeping the lawn mowed at Wilson Cemetery and Colin Moran reported to work for the summer. West Hill and Maplewood Cemeteries have been mowed and Thursday and Friday will be used to mow and trim Wilson in preparation for the Memorial Day weekend. Volunteers to help trim at Wilson would be appreciated. The weather has been very dry and unless the rains come, the cemetery lawns will begin to die back. Maplewood is already under stress and West Hill is currently okay as the grounds are well shaded. New flags have been installed at Wilson and Maplewood Cemeteries.

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Mr. Coffrin brought a request from Mr. Steven Foster, one of the lot owners of Lot 150 in Section G at Wilson Cemetery. Mr. Foster owns the four-grave lot along with his wife and his brother and his wife. He would like to divide the lot in order to have a two-grave sized monument on the two-graves for him and his wife which would be too small under the rules. His brother Stanley passed away in 2011 and his widow has not made any plans for putting up a monument in the lot, and Steven would like to get his placed soon. The deed, in Book 3, Page 165, has four names; Foster, Stanley, Jutta, Steven, and Lena, and is dated 18 June 1997. Mr. Rogers suggested one couple deed their portion to the other. Mr. Harrington asked about a quit claim of right, title, and interest in one half of the lot, Mr. Rogers said an exchange of deeds would be better. Regardless, all costs would be borne by the lot holders per Section 7.01 for the transfer; there is typically no recording fee on cemetery deeds. There is also a small price difference in buying a four-grave lot versus two, two-grave lots. The cemetery rules, Section 7.04, prohibits subdivision of lots. Mr. Harrington suggested a document might be created to allow the placement of two, two-grave sized monuments on the lot versus the single four-grave size. Mr. Coffrin will contact Mike Monti, town attorney, for his advice on the issue.

APPROVAL OF DEEDS AND MONUMENTS

- A. Deeds:
  - Mario and Lorrie Leclerc, Maplewood, South 2, Lot 65b, 8' x 7'.
- B. Niche reservation:
  - None this meeting.
- C. Monuments:
  - Ora Gibbs, Wilson, East, 165ea, single grave. Proposed monument did not meet size requirements as it exceeded the 2/3 lot width maximum and was returned for revision.
- D. Niche covers:
  - None this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Gould Cemetery. Mr. Garceau and Mr. Harrington recently made a trip to the field to review the site. They suggested the commission might approach the owners, Washington County Mental Health, and ask permission to restore the site and provide stewardship. Ms. Labrador noted the stone arch on site is a portal stone. She also said there are multiple John Goulds in town during that timeframe. She speculated an agreement with the town concerning the cemetery might exist around 1850. There is, she pointed out, an agreement between the town and the nuns of the old monastery on file in Book 121, Page 454 from 1989, but with current restrictions, she did not have access to the document. The document may or may not have anything to do with the Gould site, Mr. Rogers offered to scan and email her the document. Mr. Harrington said there might be a survey plat on file as the property line between Washington County Mental Health and the residents of Buena Vista is marked with pins set by Wayne Lawrence. To be continued.
- B. Flagpole light at Maplewood. From Mr. Coffrin's report: new flagpole lights will be ordered in July at the start of the next fiscal year, one for Wilson and one for Maplewood.
- C. Culvert repair cover. On-going.

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- D. Final survey documents for New Section C, Wilson Cemetery. No documents have been received from the surveyors, Chase and Chase.
- E. Status of work crew at the cemeteries. From Mr. Coffrin's report: cemetery work is being completed for the Memorial Day weekend but anyone who could volunteer to do string trimming Thursday or Friday would be very much appreciated. Mr. Harrington said he could be there on Thursday, after 10 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Dickinson lot buy back. A lot owner may ask the town to buy back a cemetery lot upon proof of ownership at 80 percent of the original purchase price per cemetery regulations, Section 7.06. Alice Dickinson appears on the deed as an owner and she made the request in writing. The original purchase price was \$350, so 80 percent would be \$280. Mr. Garceau made a motion for the town to purchase the lot from Mrs. Dickinson for the amount due, Mr. Harrington seconded the motion. With no further discussions, the motion passed on a voice vote.

AROUND THE TABLE DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Garceau said the cemetery flags had been placed in the cemeteries. Used flags are in place this year and those found unserviceable could be replaced.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for: June 23, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.  
Location: Room 3, Barre Town Municipal Office.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Garceau made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Benoit. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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