

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR JUNE 23, 2021 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, Angela Labrador, Clement Vaillancourt, and Dwight Harrington attended the meeting, Robert Benoit was absent. Town manager Carl Rogers and Dwight Coffrin, sexton, also attended.

AGENDA CHANGES - ADDITIONS

Details: Mr. Vaillancourt requested the addition of the culvert replacement at the Wilson vault and the replacement monument storage at his facility. Mr. Garceau requested the addition of a discussion concerning a tree growing on the Renfrew lot at Wilson and a foundation issue in the Bryant lot, G-26 at Wilson. Mr. Garceau made a motion to add the four items, seconded by Mr. Harrington. With no further discussion, Mr. Garceau added the items to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Garceau made a motion, seconded by Ms. Labrador, to approve the agenda as written and include the four additional items. 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 26, 2021 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 gave his summary on a handout. The cemeteries have been mowed and trimmed, and branches and brush removed at Maplewood and Wilson. He thanked Mr. Benoit and Mr. Harrington for assisting in trimming grass at Wilson Cemetery prior to Memorial Day weekend. He said he received many compliments on the overall appearance of the cemeteries from visitors. Drought conditions have slowed grass growth in the past two weeks and shrub work will commence in July depending on weather and temperature considerations. Monument foundations will be poured in July as well. Mr. Coffrin reported eleven interments since April 19, 2021 with 24 total interments this fiscal year to date. He has lot sales and niche reservations pending. The cemetery office will be painted and new carpet laid down, the carpeting donated. Mr. Coffrin also told the commission the employment shortage issues have been resolved with the transfer of a worker from the recreation crew and the hiring of a summer worker.

Also, Mr. Coffrin reported he had added an additional foot of width to the lot to be purchased by Mrs. Ora Gibbs at Lot 165ea, Section East, Wilson Cemetery making her single grave lot five feet wide by ten feet to accommodate the size of her proposed monument. The additional foot came from an adjacent strip of land not designated for any other use. Mr. Coffrin said the inclusion of the additional foot of land would not impede cemetery operations nor block the normal flow of traffic in the area. The monument sketch Mrs. Gibbs submitted received approval by the commission but will be held by the sexton until the final payment on the lot has been made by Mrs. Gibbs. The change in lot size has been recorded on the paper section schematic and will be changed in the CAD files during the scheduled schematic update in 2023.

APPROVAL OF DEEDS AND MONUMENTS

- A. Deeds:
 - None this meeting.

- B. Niche reservation:
 - Matthew and Jennifer Cetin, Columbarium 2, Side B, Niche 2 (for Lorraine M. Rudd)

- C. Monuments:
 - Sonia (Cordero) Yialiades, Wilson Cemetery, Section East, Lot 165ee
 - Steven Foster, Wilson Cemetery, Section G, Lot 150
 - Ora Gibbs, Wilson Cemetery, Section East, Lot 165ea (see Sexton Report.)

- D. Niche covers:
 - Lorraine Masson Rudd, Columbarium 2, Side B, Niche 2

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OLD BUSINESS

- A. Steven Foster, who had requested to have the lot he owns with his brother split into two separate lots, has withdrawn the request and has resolved the issue.
- B. Mr. Vaillancourt has investigated the culvert area near the Wilson vault. He recommended the site be graded and leveled prior to the placement of the broken slab of granite. The replacement slab would not last if it is laid on the rough ground surface that currently exists at the site. Mr. Vaillancourt also suggest using a slab a bit thicker than skin cuts currently being made which are only about an inch thick. Care should be taken in site preparation as the area is next to the vault and highly visible. Mr. Coffrin will review the site to determine the work to be done to re-grade the area and schedule the work for later this summer.
- C. Mr. Vaillancourt's firm, Spruce Mountain Granites, is currently storing the replacement monuments ordered at the end of the 2020 cemetery year, he asked they be moved by August. Mr. Coffrin said he had space for them and would work with Mr. Vaillancourt to have them moved. Mr. Vaillancourt offered his assistance in moving them to the cemetery.
- D. Mr. Garceau received a call concerning the foundation under the headstone on the Bryant lot in Section G, Lot 26. The monument base overhangs the concrete foundation and chips of concrete can be found in the grass. Mr. Coffrin will investigate further. He said if the cemetery workers poured the foundation, the cemetery commission would be liable for repairs. Some foundations prepared by others in the cemetery have been found to be insufficient or constructed incorrectly and had to be replaced. Further discussions to follow.
- E. Mr. Garceau noted an ash tree sapling had grown into some shrubbery on the Renfrew lot, Mr. Coffrin will remove it.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Cemetery Commission elections for upcoming FY 2021-2022.
- Mr. Harrington nominated Mr. Garceau as chair of the Barre Town Cemetery Commission, seconded by Mr. Vaillancourt. No other nominations came forth and Mr. Garceau was elected chair by a voice vote.
 - Mr. Garceau nominated Ms. Labrador as vice-chair of the Barre Town Cemetery Commission, seconded by Mr. Vaillancourt. No other nominations came forth and Ms. Labrador was elected vice-chair by a voice vote.
 - Mr. Garceau nominated Mr. Harrington as recorder of the Barre Town Cemetery Commission, seconded by Ms. Labrador. No other nominations came forth and Mr. Harrington was elected recorder by a voice vote.

AROUND THE TABLE DISCUSSIONS

Town Manager Rogers informed the commission there are no longer any phone-in requirements for the monthly meetings as the COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted in the state. Those not fully vaccinated will need to wear masks. He said the conference room layouts will be returned to their pre-COVID configurations in the near future.

Mr. Vaillancourt noted that cemetery care and appearance had become bigger issues in local communities and many citizens had been taking a more active role in those matters. The comments he has heard about the Barre Town cemeteries have all been positive.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for: July 28, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
Location: Room 3, Barre Town Municipal Office.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Harrington made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Labrador. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

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