

BARRE TOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 22, 2021 MEETING  
6:30 P.M., BARRE TOWN MUNICIPAL OFFICE

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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 were present; and town manager Carl Rogers and sexton Dwight Coffrin also attended the meeting.

AGENDA CHANGES - ADDITIONS

None this meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Garceau made a motion, seconded by Ms. Labrador, to approve the agenda as written. 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 August 25, 2021 meeting as written. With no further discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT

Mr. Rogers has reviewed the previous month's budget report and found a few items in need of change. He said the sale of lots figure had an error as the entire amount of the sales went to the trust fund instead of 40% to the fund and 60% to the operating account. The change would add \$6,168 to the sale of lots account resulting in a \$7,728 total compared to the \$7,000 budget figure. There would be \$1,700 more in the columbaria account. Adjustments for burials and other accounts have been made based on corrections from the sexton's summary. Mr. Rogers also said the columbaria reserve fund is not reported, and he updates this account yearly. Mr. Garceau asked about the trigger point to buy the next columbaria structure currently set to happen after the sale of 48 niches. He suggested the commission consider purchasing the next unit as soon as funds are available; for example, after the sale of only 40 niches as the costs of the structures continues to rise.

RECEIVE GUESTS

None this meeting.

SEXTON REPORT

Mr. Coffrin submitted his report concerning cemetery operations for the month of September. He reported twelve burials or cremains interments so far this fiscal year. There have been five lots sold, one niche sold, six foundations installed, and two markers set. The mowing and trimming continue in all cemeteries and the trimming of shrubs and hedges will be completed in the next two weeks. A downed tree has been removed from Maplewood. New/replacement trees and shrubs will be picked up at the nursery next week. The layout for the shrubs in New Section B needs to be completed. The crew has been short one employee for the past two weeks, he is scheduled to return to work next Monday. There are two foundation orders to be approved. Mr. Coffrin provided catalog cut detail on a solar light he will purchase and install on the flag pole at Wilson Cemetery.

APPROVAL OF DEEDS AND MONUMENTS

A. Deeds:

- James and Cynthia Crumb, Lot 203, 8x10, Section New C, Wilson Cemetery.
- Laurence W. & Sandra C. Kessenich, Lot 447-a, 8x10, Section New B, Wilson Cemetery.
- Robert & Wendy Carter, Lot 208, 7x10, Section G, Wilson Cemetery.
- Suzanne M. Klinefelter, Lot 123, 8x10, Section New B, Wilson Cemetery.

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- B. Niche reservation:
  - Alice W. Bartlett, Columbarium 2, Side B, Niche 5.
- C. Monuments:
  - Estate of Andrew Huckins, Lot 166eb, Section East/OY5, Wilson Cemetery, approved.
  - Suzanne M. Klinefelter, Lot 123, New Section B, Wilson Cemetery, approved.
- D. Niche covers: None this meeting.

A question was raised about determining whether to charge someone the resident or non-resident rate in cemetery lot sales, and a general discussion took place concerning the definition of a resident. One definition for a resident would be someone registered to vote in the town. Another definition calls for a person to live in the town for six months and a day or for 183 days out of the year. Another determination could come from the review of a person's driver's license. Owning property in the town does not necessarily mean the owner lives in the town. Mr. Coffrin stated the City of Barre allows for a resident's rate if the person pays taxes to the city. Tax and utility bills for property in the town are not always an indication of residency as they can be sent to the property owner at another address. Ms. Labrador suggested adding the general statement "proof of residency required" to the cemetery price list to inform prospective buyers they need to prove they are town residents to get the resident rate. Mr. Rogers will consult with the town attorney to determine the proper definition.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Status of culvert repairs near Wilson vault. From the sexton's report, the broken cover over the drain has been replaced with a granite slab. The area around the drain has been re-shaped for better drainage and seed and mulch applied at any disturbed areas.
- B. Status of the Gould Cemetery. Ms. Labrador has completed the land title work on the Gould Cemetery located on the land of the Washington County Mental Health Services. Her research determined the site where the grave of John Gould, Jr. is located has never been subdivided out of the property and Mr. Gould's grave lies on private property. The property's title chain begins on the very first deed recorded in Wildersburg, now Barre. She found two distinct John Goulds in Wildersburg at the same time, they came from different families and the grave belongs to John Gould, Jr. of Winchester, NH. Ms. Labrador provided the commission members with a flow chart of deed references to connect John Gould to the current owner of the property. Ms. Labrador said the gravesite could be restored using the photos and sketches previously made by Mr. Robert Murphy as a guide as the stones are probably near their original positions. As the gravesite is on private property, the commission could write a letter to Washington County Mental Health outlining proposed restoration work and asking their permission to do the work or, leave the site as is.
- C. Maplewood fence. From the sexton's report, the work of sandblasting and painting is scheduled to begin on Thursday of next week. The intention is to have all the fence along Farwell Street sandblasted and painted this year.
- D. Bulk trash day recap. The cemetery commission sponsored the bulk trash day collection on September 18. The final count showed 162 loads brought to the town garage site, split between two unloading crews. The commission received \$455 in donations.
- E. Replacement monuments. From the sexton's report, the monuments are still at Spruce Mountain Granite and the work of replacing them is scheduled for October.

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NEW BUSINESS

A. None this meeting.

AROUND THE TABLE DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Rogers said the Dickinson lot buy-back has been completed. Their son had power of attorney and used it to finalize the buy-back and the lot is again available for sale.

Mr. Rogers also reported that Erwin Waibel stopped by the town offices to thank town personnel for their assistance in obtaining a lot in Wilson Cemetery for his parents and erecting a monument on the site. He left a laminated document presenting the history of his parents currently on display on the wall at the town offices.

Mr. Harrington asked about some kind of certificate of appreciation for Mr. Ray Brown of the cemetery department. He has stepped up in the cemeteries and taken a large burden off of Mr. Coffrin during this time of labor shortages in both the cemetery and the recreation departments. Mr. Rogers suggested a letter be written to the select board asking them to pass a thirty year service resolution for Mr. Brown. Mr. Harrington made a motion to do so, seconded by Mr. Benoit. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Coffrin asked for thank you letters for Suzanne Klinefelter and Henri Dessureau.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for: October 27, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Room 3, Barre Town Municipal Office.

Members should bring any suggestions for budget items or cemetery needs to the October meeting for inclusion in the budget preparations held over the winter. Mr. Rogers said the waterline from the well to the storage tank has been damaged by tree roots and is in need of replacement and the commission might also consider removal of the tree.

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 7:40 p.m.

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