

City of Barre

Public Body Meeting Minutes

Committee: Cemeteries

Date of Meeting: September 21, 2026

Location of Meeting: In Person The Roosevelt Room 3rd Floor Alumni Hall

Committee Members in Attendance: Chairperson Starr Parnigoni LeCompte, Helen Long, Heather Milne- Ritchie (via Zoom), Ilene Gillander, Mark Gherardi, Giuliano Cecchinelli, Donna Drayman-Pulice, Renie Zanleoni and Director Tom Baker

Members Absent: Mayor Thom Lauzon, Taylor Dexter

Guests Present: John Raper

Meeting was called to order at: 11:00 am

Minutes of the Meeting on August 17, 2026 were approved.

Moved by: Renie Second: Giuliano

City resident John Raper approached the committee for permission to make a documentary of the cemeteries in Barre. He will begin with Hope. He is going to use drone footage of each stone. He will air this on his channel on YouTube. He does not have a license to operate a drone over people. He will notify the police when he is operating the drone in a cemetery.

Motion to approve of Mr. Raper's project.

Moved by: Giuliano Second: Heather

Alcide Fantoni's Old Fountain Centerpiece Stone

Ilene reported on measuring the World fountain and locating an excellent spot in Morningside for this stone to be relocated. It would be placed in the center of the 9 stone circle. It would need a cement foundation and a column base of granite to sit on in the center of these 9 stones. The second possibility is next to Dr. Lewitan's family stone. We will move the fountain in the spring of 2027.

Cozzi Fountain Engineer Meeting Report

The Sub-committee met with Ken Bushey of DeWolfe (DuBois and King) on September 16, 2026. Mark Gherardi explained the need to establish where the left and right columns must go in order to determine the height of the arch. We requested that a site survey be completed by Dewolfe. Ken said the survey can be completed in a few weeks. If the site survey is finalized this fall, the design of the entire project can begin this winter.

Report on the Cleaning of Stones

Starr thanked Joel, Pierre, Jeffrey, Brandyn and Pete for keeping the cemeteries lovely.

Jonathan Maurice has completed cleaning for 2026 at St. Monica's.

Jamie Fontaine is completing work at Elmwood. He has used a new cleaner on marble which continues to work for months after being applied. Jamie will prepare an estimate for the cost of cleaning the entire rest of Elmwood. Starr has contacted a donor who possibly will partner with the DAR creating a 501 3C which the donor has requested for tax benefits.

Starr also met with members of the VFW and Teo Calcagni to discuss which stones they would like to see repaired or replaced in Elmwood. The VFW would like to make an annual commitment of funds from their 5K race.

Matt Peake continues to do an excellent job cleaning stones in Hope. (see Section K)

Other topics

Roxanna Salem of the Rebecca Hastings Chapter of the DAR has a plaque and post and has requested it be set so they can have an unveiling. Director Baker was asked to contact Ms Salem.

Joel, Director Tom and Kris Kirby will begin training on the Cemcites program. Mark suggested that a kiosk be placed at The Granite Museum for easier access to the software. Director Tom suggested signs at the cemeteries with a QR code. The sign might say, "Find a Loved One, Scan the Code."

Round Table

Helen asked Tom if he knew how many burials took place this year. She would like to see a report. Tom said he would look at the lot index and have a report by October 19, 2026.

The next meeting is October 19, 2026

Motion to Adjourn: Moved by: Donna Second: Helen

Meeting adjourned at: 12:06 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ilene R. Gillander, Secretary