

CITY OF BARRE

CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES –DRAFT

Committee: Cemetery Committee

Date of Meeting: September 17, 2018

Location of Meeting: Alumni Hall –Conference

Committee Members in attendance: Richard Parnigoni, Starr LeCompte, Jeff Bergeron, Stephanie Quaranta, Guiliano Cechinelli, Ilene Gillander, Real Maurice, Norena Zanleoni, Mark Gherardi

Committee Member Absent: Sylvia Malnati

Others in Attendance: Brian Zechinelli, Steve MacKenzie

Topics Discussed:

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Brian Zechinelli came before Committee to discuss his proposal that a new granite bench commemorating the silent pandemic of the “Spanish Flu of 1918” be placed in Hope Cemetery. Director Bergeron proposed a site adjacent to Section K where many of its victims are buried. The bench which has been provided by ROA is complete and ready for installation. Director Bergeron expressed confidence that the cemetery staff could have all the foundation work complete in time for the dedication date of 10/26/18, if approved by the Committee.

Serious Discussion by the Committee followed Mr. Zechinelli’s departure. It was determined that no precedent was being set and other requests for commemorative monuments would be approved on a case by case basis by the Committee which is interested in treating all parties fairly. Discussion ended with unanimous vote for placement of the memorial on an “unsaleable” lot.

Manager Mackenzie asked for an opportunity to review the recently passed City ordinance on donation. He and Director Bergeron would discuss further.

Member Parnigoni asked if there is any issue with sculptors signing private monuments in the cemeteries. Director B. said there is no issue as they are private lots.

Director Bergeron told Committee that “Summer Help” was successful this year. This year, he assigned two employees to each of the cemeteries, giving them a sense of ownership. He has received many compliments. The last day for maintenance will be 10/26/18- weather permitting.

Director Bergeron reported that the monuments scheduled for cleaning in 2018 will soon be complete. Many of the members commented on how nice the cleaned monuments look. Member Parnigoni asked about the number of monuments being cleaned. Member Gherardi indicated that it was a good value. Director B. is also very happy with the quality and quantity of the work being done by Matt Peake.

Discussion continued with Manger Mackenzie regarding the front entrance to Hope Cemetery. It was agreed that the flowers will be removed and this area will be grassed this fall by cemetery staff.

Director Bergeron had received a report of stolen flowers at Hope Cemetery. More police presence was suggested but resources are limited.

Manager MacKenzie asked Director Bergeron to come before the City Council to give them a report on the cleaning program that is generously funded by ROA and the BGA.

Parks and Rec Report by Director Bergeron:

Director B. has received complaints about the condition of the sidewalks in Currier Park. He will be discussing with Manager.

Discussion continued about the increasing volume of people using the Gazebo in the Park for long periods of time. Members brainstormed about a solution which would respect the rights of individuals. Chairperson Cechinelli suggested the possibility of making the stairs optional by permit only. Manager suggested making the Gazebo's function ornamental only. The Manager will be bringing this topic to City Council in near future.

Member LeCompte reported a danger tree on the one way exit of Hope Cemetery.

Meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m. Next Meeting: October 15, 2018

Respectfully Submitted: Starr LeCompte