

City of Barre
Public Body Meeting Minutes

Draft

Committee: Cemetery

Date of meeting: May 16, 2022

Location of Meeting: Alumni Hall, 2nd Floor

Committee Members in attendance: Chairman Guiliano Cecchinelli, Assistant Director Stephanie Quaranta, Heather Ritchie, Ilene Gillander, Norena Zanleoni, Starr LeCompte

Committee Members absent: Director Jeff Bergeron, Mark Gherardi

Others in attendance: Helen Long, Cathy Swift

Meeting Called to order: 11:04 am

Approval of the minutes from April 18th meeting:

Motion to approve by Member Zanleoni, Second by Member Ritchie.

Motion Carried.

Adjustments to the Agenda: Pest control

Director's Report: Director's Report was read to Committee by the Assistant Director in Director's absence.

Fiscal picture for cemeteries is very positive as we close in on the end of this FY. Revenue is 100% over projections. Maintenance is very close to projected with some over runs in vehicle maintenance and fuel costs.

No new monument approval requests.

There has been some further discussion of dogs in cemeteries. Director and Committee want to wait until Mr. Boutin can attend meeting to discuss his change of thought on this subject.

There continues to be challenges in finding seasonal cemetery staff. Hourly wages have been increased to \$15.00 for weed whackers and \$18.00 for experienced mowers.

Director expressed appreciation for Member Gillander for her efforts in cataloguing the lot owners with violations for action. A letter has been drafted and circulated to the Committee which will address the issue of violations in all three cemeteries. This draft letter will be submitted to the City Council for approval by the Director for the meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 24th.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Mrs. Helen Long and her daughter, Cathy Swift attended the meeting to request permission to have a military medallion awarded to her late husband attached to the back of the Smith Long monument in Hope Cemetery. She provided documentation of occurrences of attachments to other monuments. After much discussion, motion to approve was offered by Member Zaneleoni and seconded by Member Ritchie. Member Ritchie further commended Mrs. Long for handling this matter properly by coming to the Committee for approval. Request was made by the Chairman to coordinate with Cemetery. Motion carried.

The Committee then moved on to a lengthy discussion of the worsening problem of decoration violations in all three of the cemeteries. Member Gillander had compiled a detailed list of 110 gravesites in Hope Cemetery with offending decorations all of which are disallowed by the “**Rules and Regulations for Barre City Cemeteries (rev. Edition Summer 2015)**”. It has been noted many times in Committee meetings that each lot owner receives a copy of these rules when purchasing a lot.

Member Gillander also noted that the condition of these lots is particularly troublesome as the bus tour season is beginning with people from all over the world visiting Hope.

Discussion continued as to how the Director and Committee are going to handle the removal of these items. The letter previously noted will be the first step in notification to the worst offenders. Public notice has been drafted by Assistant Director Quaranta for the Times Argus and Washington World. A flyer was also made which will be placed around town by Member Ritchie.

Chairman Cecchinelli suggested a special meeting be held within the week to further discuss how the process will move forward. He will talk with the Director and reach out to Committee with date and time.

It was determined that Pest Control would need to be tabled until Director could be present.

It was also determined that Mr. Boutin would be invited to the next meeting to discuss his concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Next scheduled meeting: June 20, 2022