

City of Barre

Public Body Meeting Minutes

Committee: Cemetery and Parks

Date of meeting: October 17, 2022

Location of Meeting: Alumni Hall, 1st Floor

Committee Members in attendance: Chair Guiliano Cecchinelli, Director Bergeron, Ilene Gillander, Starr LeCompte, Mark Gherardi, Helen Long, Heather Ritchie, Renie Zanleoni,

Committee Members absent: Assistant Director Stephanie Quaranta

Others in attendance: none

Meeting Called to Order: 11:04 am.

Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the minutes submitted of the last meeting.

Director's Report to Committee:

Five of the summer staff are done for the season leaving a staff of two. Work is all caught up for the year.

Year to date financials show the cemeteries are in good shape. Expenses are a little higher as a result of salaries. Staff levels will remain the same for 2023.

Member Ritchie asked a question about using individuals on community service as some cemeteries have done in the past. Director indicated that this availability ended with Covid.

Another lengthy discussion of dogs in the cemeteries was held. Councilman Boutin came before the Committee earlier this summer to indicate that he is in favor of the rescission of a change to rules which had allowed dogs in the cemetery at this time. This item came up for discussion at the last City Council meeting. Director B. was asked to speak at the meeting as was Member Gillander. Both spoke in favor of keeping dogs out of the cemeteries. No action was taken at that meeting. The Director is going to meet with City Manager to confirm that the

Committee strongly advises that dogs should not be allowed on cemetery property as already indicated by “the Rules and Regulations” in place since 2015.

No monument approvals this month.

Old Business:

There has been no response to any of the certified letters sent out since the last meeting. Cemetery personnel will begin the removal process. Collected items will be retained for two weeks at cemetery office as indicated in the certified letter sent.

The Mission Statement was approved by the Committee. The Chair will be going to the Council with the Mission Statement, seeking further clarification of the role of the Committee at this time.

New Business

Mausoleums are making a comeback in these post-Covid times. Member Gherardi believes that an area should be planned and landscaped for these large memorials. Greaver & Ward is a firm known for their cemetery layouts. The Committee continues to explore the best way to plan for the future of the cemeteries. Cremations are on the increase; thus, the discussion of a columbarium design continues. Discussion continued as to whether these two aspects of the cemeteries could be incorporated into an overall plan for the future. No decisions were made at this time.

The Director had no update on private citizens that had approached him about a willingness to donate money to rehabilitate Elmwood Cemetery.

The Committee wants to recognize Matt Peake who continues to clean sections of stones at Hope Cemetery each year. This endeavor is funded by the BGA and ROA. The Committee thanks both for their continued support.

Member Gillander reported that cemetery tours are back. She did 18 tours this summer. It was a positive experience for the 360 tourists and one talented tour guide.

Motion to Adjourn was made and seconded to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm

Next scheduled meeting: March 20, 2023

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of the Committee;

Starr Parnigoni LeCompte