

City of Barre

Public Body Meeting Minutes

Committee: Cemetery

Date of meeting: Sept. 18, 2023

Location of Meeting: Alumni Hall, 2nd Floor

Committee Members in Attendance: Chairman Giuliano Cecchinelli, Ilene Gillander, Starr LeCompte, Renie Zanleoni, Helen Long, and Staff Liaison Stefanie Quaranta, Mark Gherardi, Director Bergeron

Committee Absent:

Meeting Called to Order: 11:03 am.

Minutes from 2 previous meetings were approved unanimously.

Director's Report

Director reported that Tru-Green has done two applications for the Japanese beetle infestation at Hope Cemetery with great success. The third and final round will be done in a couple of weeks. The cost of this remediation is \$6700 which will be paid by the General Fund.

The Abbey Family (descendants of lot owners in Elmwood) have donated \$19,000 for repairs to that cemetery. Those repairs have been completed. They have met with the Director and generously pledged another \$20,000 towards the betterment of Elmwood Cemetery

The Director reviewed the financial report for the cemeteries with the Committee. The questions asked prompted the Director to indicate that he would like to ask the City Clerk to attend the next meeting for clarification.

The Director reported that Dente Park repairs are complete. Governor Scott (a Barre native) took part in the reseeding of the grass himself.

The Director wanted it to be noted that the Granite City Garden Club was instrumental in flood damage to public areas.

Old Business

The Chair asked the Committee to review the Mission Statement which has been requested by the City Manager. This sparked a thoughtful discussion by members as to the function of the Committee. The appearance of the City Manager was requested for clarification on many issues

A re-use of the existing cemetery fountain (long out of service) had been suggested at an earlier meeting. The Director agreed that planting the fountain with flowers next year would be a nice use of the space.

The Director reported that the Route 14 project is a month behind schedule.

New Business

The Director was asked about a danger tree leaning in Hope Cemetery. The Director is aware of the tree and will follow up with his staff on its removal.

Discussion has begun on undertaking some events during the year to familiarize City residents with their cemeteries and their committee members. More to come on this front.

Monument approvals

The Committee reviewed plans for two new additions to Hope Cemetery. The Eugene Cozzi Family Monument is a mausoleum. The Bernie Lajeunesse Family Columbarium was also approved with the stipulation that it must be constructed of Barre gray granite as per the "Rules and Regulations".

Items for Future Agenda

Discussion of standardizing solar lights in all cemeteries.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Next Meeting will be October 16, 2023

Submitted:

Starr Parnigoni LeCompte