

City of Barre

Public Body Meeting Minutes

Committee: Cemeteries

Date of Meeting: September 15, 2025

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

Committee Members in Attendance: Chairperson Starr Parnigoni LeCompte, Helen Long, Renie Zanleoni, Mark Gherardi, Heather Milne-Ritchie, Director Tom Baker, Ilene Gillander

Committee Members Attending via Zoom: Giuliano Cecchinelli

Committee Members Absent: Mayor Thomas Lauzon

Guests in Attendance: Donna Drayman-Pulice and Cozzi Project Point Person, Jeff Bergeron

Meeting was called to order at: 3:32 pm

Minutes of the August 18, 2025 meeting were approved.

Mover: Heather

Second: Renie

Director's Report:

Part A: Grubs at Hope: Tom reported that he had contacted S&D Landscaping and they suggest waiting until next spring to treat the soil for grubs. Discussion followed about the safety of their chemicals. Heather suggested giving them a piece of grout to test the safety of their chemicals on granite. There was discussion about putting this project out for bid as it will be over \$25,000.

Part B: Bus Signs in Hope: Tom and Ilene attended a meeting at The Granite Museum to discuss bus routes in Hope Cemetery. Also present at the meeting were Scott McLaughlin, Director of the Granite Museum and Brent Curtis, tour guide. Tom brought a large map and pointed out the city roads that Donnie said should NOT have large bus traffic. The group agreed to place 4 red, 7 foot street signs at the entrance to all the roads where no buses would be permitted to drive. Tom will look into having the signs made and in place before foliage season this year.

Part C: Computer Software: The cemetery software called Cemsite has been approved by the City Council and purchased with interest money from the Cozzi Endowment. Michelle LeBarge Burke will be in charge of operating this computer program. It is expected that the Cemetery Committee members will provide assistance in

data entry. Starr explained that we will need to hire more people, possible interns, to provide assistance in collecting all the information that will be needed for this program or it will take years to complete.

Part D: Italian Stonecutter's Monument: Starr reported that Carol Dawes told us we can use the money set aside for maintenance of this park to clean the monument. It has not been cleaned in 10 years. Tom told us that the remaining silt from the 2023 and 2024 floods have raised the soil over 8 inches lowering the sidewalks making them a trip hazard. This money can be used to dig out the silt and reseed the park.

Part E: Elmwood Cemetery: Starr reported that she has contacted Robin and Don Abbey about their continued contributions to fixing the stones in Elmwood Cemetery. Robin stated that they want to make a sizeable donation. This time they insist on putting the project out to bid. They want to make the decision who completes the work. Discussion followed concerning the fact that there are no setters any more and it is a "lost art". 99 stones have been identified. Tom suggested that we break it down into smaller groups and spread out the work over 5 years.

The subject was tabled.

Cozzi Endowment Report: Jeff Bergeron met with former City Manager Steve McKenzie who is a civil engineer. He asked how we should start the Cozzi Fountain Project. Steve suggested having a design competition that produces a drawing of the proposed fountain. After the design is chosen, then we hire an architect and sculptors to begin. There was lively discussion about how to advertise for this competition. We did not settle on an award for the winning design. Heather is going to look into other competitions to see what they have offered.

Roundtable: New Business: Renie questioned hiring more monument cleaners because we now have the money to do so. She also was interested in finding a company who makes vaults. Heather and Ilene shared their experience being interviewed by Ben Frechette of WCAX - TV for a hometown piece on Hope Cemetery that will be aired on September 22, 2025.

Meeting was adjourned at: 5:03 pm Mover: Mark Second: Heather