

## City of Barre

### Public Body Meeting Minutes

**Committee:** Cemetery

**Date of Meeting:** March 27, 2025

**Location of Meeting:** 2nd Floor, Alumni Hall

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Helen Long, Mark Gherardi, Renie Zanleoni, Ilene Gillander, Heather Milne-Ritchie

**Committee Members Absent:** Chairman Giuliano Cecchinelli

**Guests in Attendance:** Mayor Thomas Lauzon, City Manager Nicolas Storellicastro, Director of Facilities and Grounds Tom Baker and Former Director of Cemeteries Jeff Bergeron

Meeting called to order at 11:05 am.

Mark Gherardi began the meeting by turning the discussion of the "Cozzi Endowment" of nearly \$3 million dollars over to Eugene Cozzi's successor trustee, Mayor Thomas Lauzon. Mayor Lauzon described Eugene Cozzi's legacy and how he wanted to do "something great" for the City of Barre. Eugene passed in October of 2024 and his first wish was to have a fountain built in his name.

Discussion followed about the fountain. Heather Milne-Ritchie spoke about the possibilities of having the granite industry become involved and collaborating in this project. Mark Gherardi suggested a highly reputable company named "Grever and Ward" who has completed work on over 4,000 cemeteries that would be instrumental in helping us formulate a plan. Mark has agreed to contact Grever and Ward and invite them to make a presentation to us after viewing Hope Cemetery. The location of the new fountain was initially decided to be at the opening gates in the vicinity of the flagpole.

The discussion continued with many ideas of what Hope Cemetery needs. Several of the ideas included: a Welcome Visitor's Center with parking, restrooms, a gift shop and possibly a meeting room for post-funeral luncheons, and an office for the BGA so the center would be staffed daily, a columbarium, landscaping, expanding the cemetery, and a new computer system to digitize records for locating stones.

Mark Gherardi suggested that we visit Resurrection Cemetery in Rochester, NY that has been a client of Grever and Ward to look at their beautiful work.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Heather Milne-Ritchie brought up the subject that Chairman Giuliano has not been communicating for over a year and that he only called one meeting last year. Mayor Lauzon stated that if the Chairman does not live up to his responsibilities he should step down. City Manager Nicolas said that we should elect a Vice-chairperson now to accept the leadership role. The new Vice-Chairperson can then set the meeting dates and the agenda.

Mark Gherardi nominated Heather Milne-Ritchie for Vice-chairperson. Helen Long seconded the motion. Heather was elected unanimously. She accepted.

The Committee set the meeting dates for the next three months: All meetings will meet at 3:30 pm on the second floor of Alumni Hall. The dates are as follows:

April 14, 2025

May 12, 2025

June 23, 2025

Motion to Adjourn made by Mark Gherardi and seconded by Helen Long

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 pm.