

**City of Barre**  
**Public Body Meeting Minutes**  
**Draft**

**Committee:** Cemetery

**Date of special meeting:** May 18, 2022  
Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

**Location of Meeting:** Alumni

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

**Committee Members absent:** Renie Zanleoni, Mark Gherardi

**Others in attendance:**

Special Meeting Called to order: 10:05 am

Motion Approved and seconded.

Ilene Gillander raised issued of solar lights in the cemeteries. There is no consistency to type, size, or number at gravesites. There is no concern for lights now in disrepair or when they no longer work. Ilene raised concern for mowers and weed-wackers. Both Heather and Ilene feel that solar lights should not be allowed in the cemetery. The Director indicated that this would require a special meeting with City Council to amend the rules and regulations. Heather wondered why they would not be considered with items already banned. The Chairman offered that in his estimation they are considered the modern equivalent of a candle. He expressed concern if we change too many things all at once. He would like to proceed with the Committee's initial concern regarding the condition of the 110 plots which appear on Ilene's inventory. Both the Director and Chair want to get the approval of the City Council for the letter to be sent to offenders. Much discussion followed this. Starr and Ilene have indicated willingness to give cemetery staff a hand in the removal of the unapproved decorations. Chairperson cautions that we must be under the supervision of cemetery staff at all times. Starr suggested some type of identification be worn. Chair agreed with that idea.

Starr asked a question for clarification of ownership of the lots in the cemetery. The Director said that the lots were “owned” but that everyone received the “Rules and Regulations” when they purchased the lots.

Heather suggested some type approved solar light. Ilene suggested specifying a certain number. Discussion was tabled at this point because we need to solve the existing problem of the notification letter.

Starr asked a question about the defining the amount of time that removed items would be held at Cemetery Office. Director indicated letter would be modified to say that removed items would be held for 14 days.

Discussion followed for properly formatting the letter which will be sent to City Council. Stefanie showed Committee the flyer she had developed for posting, and for news outlets. Heather offered to post the flyer around town.

The Director and Chair want the City Council approval to proceed with the letters to be sent to the 5 worst offenders. A decision about how to proceed with the remainder of the offenders will continue at next meeting. The Director hopes that some of the issues will be corrected with Memorial Day. Ilene and Starr have volunteered to prepare the letters for the remainder of offenders on the inventory.

Small discussion of flags in the cemeteries. No change in rules will affect the flags in the cemeteries.

Eileen moved to approve the corrected letter. Unanimous motion was seconded by Starr.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Next scheduled meeting: June 20, 2022

Respectfully Submitted;

Starr Parnigoni LeCompte