

City of Barre
Public Body Meeting Minutes

Committee: Cemetery

Date of Meeting: July 8, 2024

Location of Meeting: 2nd Floor, Alumni Hall

Committee Members in Attendance: Chairman Cecchinelli, Ilene Gillander, Helen Long, Mark Gherardi, and Acting Cemetery Director Rikk Taft

Committee Absent: Renie Zanleoni, Yana Walder

Meeting called to order at 3:35pm.

Reorganization and election of officers. Giuliano Cecchinelli re-elected as Chairman, Renie Zanleoni elected as Vice Chairperson, Ilene Gillander elected as Secretary.

Minutes for the last meeting on September 18, 2023 amended as follows and then approved:

The Cozzi Memorial is NOT a mausoleum.

Granite City Garden Club should read: "Instrumental in flood damage REPAIRS to public areas".

Director's Report:

New Director Rikk Taft is experiencing a steep learning curve and various administrative problems.

Mr. Taft has made new cemetery forms that are very easy to fill out, especially the section as to who is billed. He spoke about the "stand alone" foundations and stated that the City Manager has doubled the price if a person wants their monument placed immediately.

The City Manager has raised the prices on all the services the cemetery offers. The prices will go into effect on July 11, 2024.

The Cemetery Office will undergo a complete gutting immediately. Old records were found upstairs that need to be preserved. Mr. Taft has begun to look for a cemetery information company that will upgrade all City Cemeteries into a new management system. The City Manager and the Asst. City Manager and Mr Taft will meet to determine how the cemetery will be operated.

Old Business: None

New Business:

The committee would like to discuss the use of the old fountain as a flower bed. Mr. Gherardi noted that a person of interest would like to place a statue that exists at Rock of Ages in the old fountain. No decision has been made at the present time.

Mr. Taft has become aware that there is a dangerously leaning tree between two mausoleums. He is in the process of hiring a professional tree removal company to take the tree out. There was also a discussion of shrubs that need to be taken out and stones that are about to fall down.

A long discussion followed concerning the placement location of Gary Sassi's private memorial stone. He has requested to put this stone on the lot belonging to his father. The committee quoted page 11 article 3 of the Rules and Regulations that states that only ONE monument can be placed on a lot. It was decided that Gary Sassi will be asked to attend the next meeting along with his detailed plans for his monument.

Matt Peake is finishing the pressure washing of Section J which was already paid for last year. He intends to continue on the next section which is Woodside. He has mentioned that there is no money available from Polycor to continue. Mark Gherardi volunteered to pay \$2500.00 for Mr. Peake's excellent services.

Next Meeting: August 19, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 4:37 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ilene R. Gillander