

Waitsfield Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 25, 2023
Waitsfield Town Office

Present: Mark, Nancy, Robin, Laura and George Jr.

5:45: Site visit to Common Cemetery

6:50: Meeting begins.

1. Review of minutes of June 27, 2023 Unanimously approved.
 - a. One correction noted: 6e- interment not internment.
2. President's Report: Mark Unanimously approved.
 - a. Nancy and Jim Henry inquired about purchasing a double lot in the Common Cemetery. Unanimously approved to offer them the residents' rate because they were long time Waitsfield residents until one year ago.
3. Treasurer's Report: Nancy Unanimously approved.
 - a. WCC has a lifetime membership with VOCA.
 - b. Audit preparation: Nancy cannot access bank statements for several months. Mark will deliver copies of the missing statements to Nancy.
 - c. Nancy shared her concerns regarding the WCC's dwindling funds. Nancy will speak with Randy, Town Treasurers to discuss when the WCC will receive the \$17,000 the town voted to give the WCC.
 - i. Mark explained that the Town attorney is studying the State Cemetery Law and plans to offer his interpretation as to whether the Waitsfield Cemetery Trust can be dipped into below it's basis to cover WCC budget.
 - ii. Mark will invite the Waitsfield Cemetery Trustees to the WCC August meeting. The WCC is interested in learning more about the trust, etc.
 - iii. Robin will research when it is justified to dip below the basis.
 - d. Nancy has created a new organizational system.
4. Sexton's Report: George Jr. Unanimously approved.
 - a. 7/14 full burial for Robert Brightbill.
 - b. 7/18 burial for Otto Noack, cremation.
 - c. Approved Rich Rivers, Jr. request to spruce up his family plot himself.
 - d. Approved Kate Riley's request to place a grass marker for no charge on her father, John Dillon's double plot. The marker will be in honor of her sister, Sue Dillon.
 - e. Oddfellows, Johnny Thompson, asked if they could buy a plot or two for a bench in the shade of the big tree in Common Cemetery. George Jr. thinks this is the designated parking area for this cemetery. He will review the map and get back to Oddfellows.

f. Francois Borel inquired about a cemetery plot.

5. Old Business:

- a. Tree Donation Plan: Laura shared Town Tree Committee, Charlie Hosford and Vince Gauthier's, thoughts: Charlie says there is a tremendous need for Street trees to be replaced and suggested a Town Memory Tree plan be explored. He believes 35 Ash trees will die in the next few years between Waitsfield School and Fiddlers Green. Vince suggests that the cost of Memory Tree should include a fee for perpetual care. Laura will talk with Annie, Town Manager, and/or a Selectboard person or two to see if there might be interest in setting this up. A Street Memory Tree plan might be found on the WCC page on the Town website.
- b. Mill Hill Fountain: Dickie Hall shared: Both Dickie and Debbie Hall and Strobe Connell rely on the same spring that feeds the cemetery fountain. Strobe gets 100% of his water from that spring and the Halls have a gravity fed spigot for spring water in their kitchen. Plus a stone well in their cellar for supplemental water.
- c. Headstone Repair: George Jr. plans to get a quote from a new source.
- d. Irasville Cemetery fence repair:
 - i. Fabric removal: Mark is waiting to hear back from Bolduc Recycling (metal recyclers), Middlebury Fence Co., and Jared Rouleau, A&J Recycling.
 - ii. George Jr. will share the fence photo with his wife, to create an image of what it might look like with black posts and a chain.
 - iii. Laura will contact Bruce Hyde, Mehurons, again to discuss the fence and his delivery trucks.
- e. Lot Deeds: Robin- cost of Lot Deed Book is \$50 for 50 deeds. Robin will contact the company to see what it will cost to customize the text of the deed. All commissioners will review the example Robin shared and give Robin feedback.
- f. Cemetery page on Town website: Mark will contact Annie again.
- g. Historic walking tours: to be continued. Robin and Laura.
- h. NEMRC: Robin is interested in this project. She and Mark will meet will make an appointment with Jennifer to delve into NEMRC on the Town computer.
- i. Amendment to the Bylaws re. the foundation under headstones. Mark will draft the amendment to be voted on at the August meeting.

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 22, 2023. 6pm. Waitsfield Town Office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Brines, WCC secretary