

# Waitsfield Cemetery Commission

## Final Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Waitsfield Town Offices

6:00 pm

Present: Laura, Robin M., Robin P., Mark, George Jr., Nancy, York Haverkamp- Waitsfield Town Manager

1. Welcome and agenda review Robin M
2. Public comment- no public in attendance.
3. Review and approve minutes of April 17, 2025 Meeting. Robin moves to amend the minutes, 5. to read "Checking account" instead of CD. Unanimously accepted.
4. President's report Robin M: Robin M. will email York monthly minutes, PDF- draft minutes, then final minutes.
5. Treasurer's report Nancy: Unanimously approved.
  - a. CD 9 month: \$20,392.01; CD matures June 5, 2025. Nancy will meet with NSB representative to discuss next steps re. the CD.
  - b. Checking account total: \$9,473.53
  - c. WCC payment from Town will be July 1; from the Trust 6/30.
  - d. Total NSB income: \$30,065.54
6. Sexton's report George jr. Unanimously approved.
  - a. Ordering new chain: 1000' of chain will cost about \$110. George will order it.
  - b. Cemeteries are all open!
  - c. Update on Headstone repairs.: Jeff returned to pick up his tools, but it's still not complete. Robin M. spoke with Jeff and he said he was returning to complete the repairs. Robin M. will take photos of the stones that have not been fixed and follow up with Jeff.
  - d. Cornerstones: George jr. will order the cornerstones from Jeff.
  - e. Fence rail replacement needed for Common Cemetery: F E Hart's in Wiliston. Robin M. will call- price, number of rails needed and delivery; Split rails needed for Mill Hill- replacements available at Kenyon's.
  - f. Tree assessment from Matt Holland: George plans to meet and walk the cemeteries to discuss and assess trees.
  - g. Two burials coming up mid May and mid June.
7. Old Business All
  - a. Veteran's Flags: Nancy and Robin P. will install flags by Memorial Day. Robin M. suggested photos be taken of the flag project and submitted to the VR.
  - b. Gravestone cleaning: Nancy and Robin P. : Robin P will call Fire Dept to ask if it's possible borrow an Indian pack. Jeff said to only use D2 cleaner. Robin M. asked Jeff what his prices are: extra large, \$50, Large; \$40, Med, \$30; Small, \$25; Ground markers, \$15. To be continued.
  - c. Fencing for the Irasville Cemetery: Laura will connect with Misha Golfman to find out the timeline for repairs scheduled near the path access.: not done yet.
  - d. Fencing at the Common Cemetery: Laura will connect with Ted Joslin to get more history about the fencing.

- e. George shared a photo that Tanya created of a section of the Irasville Cemetery chain link fence. It shows the chain link removed, the posts remaining, and chain between the posts. So cool. Robin M asked if Tanya could also create a photo of the chain at the top of the posts. (Thank you Tanya!)
  - f. Tree removal at Mill Hill/others - getting tree plan with Matt Holland
  - g. On-going Trustee communications: Robin and Nancy: meeting next Wednesday, 3:15.
  - h. Cemetery Software Module: Mark will make a date with Jennifer to work out accessibility to town computer.
  - i. Artifacts and Historical documents
    - i. Storage: York says WCC "old material" can be stored in Town Hall basement.
    - ii. New items discovered in Town Vault: Mark- brought box to WCC meeting for review by commissioners. Mostly old records of banking... Next WCC meeting we'll meet early to go through the stuff in the box.
    - iii. History of the perpetual care trust: Nancy- to be cont.
  - j. Cemeteries Capacity: Robin and George, Jr: Robin scanned all the cemetery maps, made two copies and has also digitized them.
    - i. Mill Hill Cemetery- need to investigate the potential for more plot availability.
    - ii. Joan Wilson's grave: Robin P. will call John Gallagher to ask for an update re. the horse monument he'd planned.
  - k. Water rights at Mill Hill: Laura and Robin P:
    - i. Found deeds that reference the water rights.
    - ii. Ongoing questions: What is the responsibility of the WCC? If the main line breaks is the WCC responsible? Would they legally be responsible?
    - iii. Is there a town/cemetery deed to the water rights?
    - iv. Laura will ask Ted to review the Town deeds re. the spring rights.
    - v. Fountain: Laura- Explore recycling water- with a solar panel, perhaps.
  - l. Recruiting to fill Mark's position: Robin M. spoke with Rachel Wylie Fenton. Rachel is interested. Robin M will invite her to a meeting.
  - m. Natural Burials: Revisit WCC's guidelines- LB to be continued.
  - n. Scattering Garden: Laura and Robin P.: recommend the back, left corner of the Mill Hill Cemetery; as an ideal site for a scattering garden. LB and Robin P. plan to meet with Stowe Cemetery Commissioners to view their Memorial Garden.
  - o. Day of the Dead Fundraiser: Robin M. To be continued. May ask a volunteer to help with this event.
  - p. Brochure: Robin M shared a brochure mock-up. It is fantastic! Love the green color. Robin M will get 50 printed. Robin will ask Jenn if Town Printer can do it....
  - q. Community Event including Documentary about the Vermont Forest Cemetery: Laura B; Fall 2025
  - r. Annual Meeting with Valley Cemetery Commissions: Laura and Robin M will email re. a June 26, 2<sup>nd</sup> choice June 25, 6-8 pm at the Town Office, upstairs meeting room.
  - s. Contact Patrick Healy. October or Nov. Robin M. will contact re. a statewide cemetery association meeting.
  - t. Cemetery Tee shirts- fundraiser (Randy George's tee, RM) – to be cont.
8. New Business

- a. Use of metal detectors in the Waitsfield Cemeteries: York said that SB would like to have more information. Robin P. emailed Patrick Healy and he said there has never been an issue, they have no policy, he'll think more about it and get back to Robin P. Metal detection is illegal in the State of VT on public lands, like a cemetery.
    - i. Mark will craft language to add to our policies that sites reference to State Law re. cemeteries.
  - b. Burning Bush on Strobe Connell's property: Strobe will remove the bush.
9. Schedule next meeting: June 9, 6pm

Adjourn: 8:15pm

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Brines, WCC Secretary