

DRAFT **Waitsfield Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Waitsfield Town Offices

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Present: Robin M., Valerie, Laura, Robin P., George Jr. joined the meeting at 6:08pm.

Meeting begins: 5:05pm

1. Welcome and agenda review: Robin M- add under new business- rural resource commission (moved from old business)
2. Public comment: no public comment.
3. Review and approve minutes of April 21, 2026 Meeting. Unanimously approved with minor edits.
4. President's report: Robin M- no report.
5. Treasurer's report: Nancy. Unanimously accepted.
 - a. Financial Update
 - i. NSB balance \$30, 847.22
 - ii. Total flag expenses: \$240.14
 - iii. Total cost so far for maintenance supplies for FY 2026 is \$1,072.04.
 - iv. Reserve fund discussion ensued: Common Cemetery fencing needs to be replaced. Robin M. will research fencing options. 14 rails are in bad shape. VOCA grants are available for fencing. Valerie suggested replacing the split rails with plastic chain and granite posts. To be continued.
 - b. Trustees Update (Nancy and Robin): To be continued.
6. Sexton's report George. Unanimously approved.
 - a. Peter White is interested in a double lot. To be continued.
 - b. Cornerstones should be dropped off soon and installed.
 - c. Meeting pending for a single lot purchase for the Klimicks.
 - d. Valerie shared her concern about invasives in Irasville Cemetery along the back fence: multi flora rose, garlic mustard, barberry. **George and Valerie and others will try to remove the invasives.**

Also trash is being dumped over the bank. George will add a trash can to try to alleviate this problem.

- e. Robin P. shared that several gravestones are knocked over in Irasville Cemetery. George Jr. will ask Matt Fitzgerald to give WCC a quote by June 15 to repair five stones in Irasvilile Cemetery.
 - f. Meeting with Nancy Henry coming up.
7. Old Business
- a. Conflict of interest draft policy (Valerie): the draft COI form Valerie shared was reviewed and discussed. City of Leagues and Towns clarified that the WCC is not a quasi-judicial group. Robin M. moved that we accept the COI policy as discussed. Unanimously approved.
 - b. Veteran Flags (Nancy and Robin P): flags and pex pipes will be installed by Memorial Day.
 - c. 5-Year Plan for Annual Tree Maintenance (Laura and Valerie)- There might be funding from Urban Canopy (Valerie will check on this.)... Valerie and Laura will meet at the Common Cemetery to check out the trees.
 - d. Fencing at Common Cemetery (Robin M/George): See 5 iv.
 - e. Digitizing Cemetery Records (Robin M and Valerie):
 - i. Google Drive: Robin M. will give “the Town” ownership of the WCC Google Doc.
 - ii. Robin M. discovered a cemetery book in the vault that contains lot sales/burials listed alphabetically and the location of the lots. She has scanned the book and uploaded it to the WCC Google Drive.
 - iii. Robin M. has also scanned all of the WCC reports 1904-2025.
 - iv. Robin M. and Valerie have begun to work on entering data to NEMRC database.
 - f. Additional Capacity at Mill Hill Cemetery (Laura): Laura hopes to meet with Peter Lazorchak ASAP.
 - g. Natural Burial Guidelines (Robin M and Laura) : to be discussed and voted on at the June meeting.
 - h. Approved Vendor List (Robin M and George): to be continued.

- i. Scanning Cemetery Maps/designating one source of truth map (Robin M and Valerie): George Jr. will give the maps in his possession to Robin M. so she can scan them.
 - j. Waitsfield Cemetery Handbook (Robin M and Valerie)- ongoing.
 - k. Storage of official Waitsfield Cemetery Commission meeting minutes and agendas Update (Robin M)
 - l. Update on Alice Evans concern about Civil War Vet Zimri Lathrop: a flag will be added. Lathrop's stone is not on the ground. It is marble, Robin P. will try to clean it.
 - m. Headstone Cleaning (Robin P): Robin P will begin cleaning stones in Irasville.
8. New Business
- a. Potential new natural burial site(s) within existing cemeteries or other town properties are being explored by the WCC. Robin M)
 - b. Linda Eldridge owns a plot in Mill Hil. She is asking what the 3 B cornerstones represent. George Jr. will investigate.
 - c. Geordie Hall's parents bought 6 single plots, possibly 8. 3 are occupied. Robin M./George Jr. will advise Geordie Hall to document the family decision regarding the future placement of family members remains.
 - d. Rural Resource Commission (possible source of grants for cemetery projects (Valerie)- defer to June meeting.

9. Next meetings: June 16, 5-7. July 7, 5-7.

Adjourned 7/28 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Brines, WCC Secretary