

Waitsfield Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 25, 2023
Waitsfield Fire Station

Present: Mark Peal, Nancy Coombs, Robin McDermott, Laura Brines and George Gabaree Jr.

1. Review of Minutes of March 28, 2023- unanimously approved.
2. President's Report- Mark
 - a. Nancy and Mark met at NFSB- Nancy is now a signatory.
 - b. Mark and George Jr. have met- George will put up the 4 new laminated signs welcoming visitors to the cemeteries.
 - c. Annie, Town Manager, will update the Cemetery page on the Town website once the new website is ready. Mark or Annie may still update the old website in the interim.
 - d. Lot deeds: To be cont.
 - e. NEMRC Cemetery module: To be cont.
 - f. Mark has had a request for a natural burial.
3. Treasurer's Report- Nancy- unanimously approved.
 - a. Nancy has reviewed the WCC's finances; she's organized and off & running as the new treasurer of the WCC.
 - b. Nancy will pay, per usual, George Jr. on the 15th of the month. George will contact Nancy to arrange check delivery.
 - c. When George Jr. has a burial he submits the payment to Nancy.
 - d. When George Jr. sells a lot the WCC gets a check, which includes perpetual care coverage. Nancy then gives the Waitsfield Cemetery Trustees a check for the perpetual care portion of the transaction.
 - e. Every lot sale has a debit and a credit.
 - f. Mark will provide Nancy with a "WCC's Treasurer's User Manual."
4. Sexton's Report- George Jr.- unanimously approved.
 - a. Irasville Cemetery is ready to open.
 - b. George is working to get the Common and Mill Hill ready to open 5/1/23.
 - c. George has a funeral for Dick Rivers at Irasville Cemetery, 4/29/23.
 - d. 3 lot sales this month.
 - e. Tree removal necessary is the Common Cemetery: George Jr. will get 2 quotes from local arborists. He will share these quotes at the May WCC meeting.
 - f. Discussion about the dying old maples at the Common Cemetery. Laura suggested we create a Tree Replacement Fund, citizens can donate a tree to replace a dying tree around the cemetery or in any of the 4 cemeteries. Laura will draft a "tree donation plan" to be discussed at the May WCC meeting.

- g. Several headstones are broken and need to be repaired. George Jr. will get an estimate from Matt, who has done this repair work for the WCC in the past.
 - h. Cemetery stone cleaning- this is the topic of the next seminar in May. (see below for seminar info)
 - i. Broken fence rails: George Jr. will count the broken ones and buy replacements.
 - i. Chain link fence at Irasville: in need of repair or replacement. Laura will contact Joshua Schwartz, MRVPD Dir., to explore potential grants for this purpose.
 - ii. Stone wall at Wait Cemetery also needs repair: to be cont.
 - j. New shed: small graffiti on the back side of the shed. George Jr. will lightly sand the area to remove the graffiti. If this issue persists the WC Commissioners will revisit it.
5. New Business:
- a. WCC meeting date: unanimously decided to meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month @ 6pm at the Waitsfield Town Office.
 - b. Historic walking tours of Waitsfield Cemeteries: Laura will contact the Waitsfield Historic Society to discuss.
6. Next meeting: May 30th, 6pm at the Waitsfield Town Office.

FYI Seminar Info:

Part 2: Introduction to Investigating, Documenting, and Preserving Gravesites

Wednesday, May 10 at 3:00 p.m. ET

This webinar will introduce the first steps that are often required for beginning the process of preserving historic cemeteries. Participants will learn about the genealogical tools and resources that are available for conducting research and providing the necessary documentation for historic gravesites.

Part 3: Beginning to Care for a Gravesite

Wednesday, June 21 at 3:00 p.m. ET

Sourcing funding and building public investment are often critical towards preserving historic cemeteries. This webinar will review strategies for fundraising, carrying out basic preservation work, recruiting volunteers, and public interpretation and engagement.

The Forum Webinars are currently free, and open to the public. Register today. <https://savingplac.es/3stQ8C7>