

Waitsfield Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 30, 2023

Present: Mark, Robin, Laura and George

5:45-6pm: Met at Irasville Cemetery to assess and brainstorm about the decrepit chain link fence on both sides of the cemetery.

6:10- meet at Waitsfield Town Office

1. Public comment: none.

2. Review minutes of April 25, 2023 meeting: one edit, to change the meeting place to Waitsfield Fayston Fire Department. Unanimously approved.

3. President's report: unanimously approved.

a. Sarah, a Harwood Middle School teacher is organizing a community service event. She asked Mark if there is a Waitsfield Cemetery project her students can assist with. Laura suggested- they could smooth out the large gravel and cut the grass, etc. just outside the path opening in Irasville Cemetery (on the Mehurons side) and possibly pick up trash too. Maybe remove the invasive honeysuckle shrubs too? **Mark will contact Sarah.** The date is June 9th, 11-2. Mark can be present.

b. Robin Preuss inquired about the open seat on the WCC. **Laura will chat with Robin P. to see if she is interested.**

4. Treasurer's report: Nancy emailed her report.

5. Sexton's report: unanimously approved.

a. Double lot sale in the Common Cemetery to Laura Caffry.

b. Dead tree removal in the Common Cemetery:

a. Received an estimate from Matt Holland for \$2650.

b. **George Jr. will also ask Ross Saxton for an estimate.**

c. **June 6th George will select whichever arborist offers the best estimate.**

c. Headstone repair:

a. George received an estimate (\$125 per headstone) from Isaiah Pelkey, Barre.

b. **George will contact Matt Calgani,** Barre (who has repaired WC headstones in the past) to see what is current prices are.

c. **George will chat more with Isaiah** to see what repair methods he uses.

d. Tree donation plan: tabled.

- a. Question: whose responsibility would the care of a gift tree be. Laura will chat with Charlie and Vince, Waitsfield Tree Committee, to discuss.
- e. Mill Hill fountain: Laura will speak with Dickie Hall to ask if they still use the spring that feeds the fountain or did they dig a new well?
- f. Broken split rail fence repairs- George will do it when he can.

6. Old Business

- * Cemetery signs: George has put up 2, needs to get new plexiglass for the 3rd.
- * Lot deeds: Mark shared two examples of lot deeds; Robin will look online for other examples.
- * Historic walking tours: tabled. Robin and Laura will brainstorm.
- * Cemetery page on Town website: Mark will contact Annie, Town Manager. We need to post the current lot price sheet, and add Robin to WCC.
- * NEMRC cemetery module: tabled.

7. New Business

a. Irasville Cemetery Chain Link fence discussion (key points):

- All agree the chain link fence on both sides of the cemetery is unsightly. The chain link fence at the back is fine. Discussed replacing it with split rail fencing as is used in other Waitsfield Cemeteries.
- Trucks have difficulty maneuvering around the corner, after delivering at the back of Mehurons.
- Could we move the fence in a foot? Mark will find the surveyed map of the cemetery.
- Robin asked- would it be possible to “beautify” the chain link fence by removing the fabric mesh & top rails and utilizing the existing metal posts? This could save money. Robin will research.
- Rotary update: Laura will let Rotary (Peter Colgan?) know that the WCC is researching fence repair/replacement and hopes to apply for grant money in the next couple of months.
- Contacting Bruce Hyde, owner of Mehurons, to bring him up to speed on our concerns about the fence. Also to seek his input. Laura will contact Bruce and/or Kathy Mehuron. (Many Mehurons are buried in Irasville Cemetery.)
- State statute re. the maintenance of cemetery fences: Mark will find it.

8. Next meeting: we will meet at Mill Hill Cemetery 5:45-6 on June 27, then move the meeting to the Waitsfield Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Brines, WCC Secretary