

**Town of Wiscasset
Cemetery Committee**

MINUTES

December 6, 2021

Present: Peter Wells, Terri Wells, Anthony Rauseo, Becky Applin, Steve Christiansen

Absent: Mark Light, Loretta Morse-Leighton and Sarah Whitfield (Selectboard Liaison)

The meeting was called to order at 5:55 by Becky Applin.

A motion to accept the November 1, 2021 Amended Minutes was made by Anthony Rauseo and 2nd by Terri Wells.

Old business:

3a) Update cemetery location map: this will be brought to our next meeting and discussed.

3b) Ancient Cemetery fence project: Peter will do more research to see what is available as far as aluminum or steel for materials. He had specified aluminum, but we could accept steel with a durable coating so that rust isn't an issue, however this depends on availability and cost. We could specify on the contract to bid steel as an alternative to the aluminum. He also will investigate whether it is best to have two contractors, one for the fence and one for the entryway and itemized separately, or one landscaping company coordinate the entire project. One general contractor for the whole project, fence and entryway, would mean that there would be less coordination needed. Peter will periodically check with landscape companies and fence companies regarding bidding and scheduling.

Peter is also checking with the State archeologist about whether or not ground penetrating radar (GPR) be used prior to excavating for the entryway since this is an historically sensitive site. The committee agreed with this approach.

3c) The Wiscasset cemetery lot sales form was redone by Sarah Whitfield and it will be brought to our next meeting to review. Anthony contacted the City of Bath and was given their cemetery lot sales form and gave each of us a copy which included their pricing sheet, burial order form, and burial rights. He offered to call other surrounding towns to collect their pricing sheets and burial order forms to bring to our next meeting. We commented on the more expensive prices for cemetery lots in Bath and we wondered if we should increase our prices here in Wiscasset.

New business:

4a) Winter committee meetings: Steve made a motion to meet next on Monday, March 7, 2022 and Anthony 2nd this motion (5-0). We agreed to call an emergency meeting if needed.

4b) The cemetery lot deed will be discussed at our next meeting. We discussed if the Town should get a perimeter boundary survey to determine the property lines. We wondered if some of the dead trees, particularly at the Ancient Cemetery were on Town property or not. Some of these trees could potentially cause damage to some of the gravestones. Peter offered to call local surveyors to see if a survey had been done for the Ancient Cemetery and also request a proposal for a boundary survey.

4c) 2022/23 cemetery budget: Becky and Peter agreed to meet with Dennis about recommending that a perimeter survey be done on the Ancient Cemetery and then specifically look at tree maintenance that may need to be done. Becky wants to ask Dennis if the perpetual care fund could cover the cost of the survey since it is tied to maintenance. We discussed having a survey done for the Ancient Cemetery and the Jackson Street Cemetery but decided to focus on just the Ancient Cemetery for 2022/23.

Becky and Peter also want to meet with Dennis to discuss that the money for the fence be budgeted and carried over to 2022.

4d) We discussed the Jackson Cemetery Trust Fund account and we agreed that the money should be rolled into a separate account and then a 2023/24 Jackson Cemetery survey could be done.

Anthony motioned to adjourn at 7pm and Terri 2nd the motion (5-0).

Our next meeting will be on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 6pm.

Terri Wells, Secretary