

Town of Wiscasset
Ad hoc Cemetery Committee

MINUTES

July 19, 2021

Present: Peter Wells, Loretta Morse-Leighton, Steve Christiansen, Anthony Rauseo, Sarah Whitfield (Selectboard Liaison)

Absent: Becky Applin

Motion by Anthony to accept the July 12 minutes, Peter 2nd the motion (4-0)

Old business:

3a) Ancient cemetery fence – the Committee and Dennis Simmons (Town Manager) and David Sutter (Wiscasset resident) met onsite at the Ancient Cemetery. They viewed the perimeter to get a sense of scale and space and Peter Wells staked out the entryway to give a sense of size for the entry, as seen in Concept D design. The group walked the entire cemetery then reconvened to the Town Office for the 6pm meeting.

There was much discussion (40 minutes) about the maintenance, costs and appearance for the two preferred designs, a white vinyl or the aluminum fence with a dark finish and open spindles. Peter felt that Concept design D, the aluminum metal fence was low maintenance and of fabricated with high quality materials. Anthony and Loretta also preferred having an aluminum metal fence, as it would have a long life warranty of 25-50 years depending on the manufacturer. Loretta liked the aluminum powdered covered finish to protect it from the salt water and Anthony's second choice would be the composite material fence. Steve Christiansen preferred the simple, white vinyl fence with an access gate on Federal Street similar to a previous fence. He shared that the American Legion members spoke with him and they also agreed with Steve, preferring the plain white fence, similar to the one from the past. Peter asked if the American Legion folks got to see the designs and Steve was unsure.

Anthony makes a motion to vote for Concept design D and Peter 2^{nds} the motion. The Committee voted in favor 3-1 for the dark aluminum fence with the open spindles as shown in Concept 'D'.

(Becky sent her opinion via an email to the Committee as she agreed with the dark aluminum fence with an open spindle.)

One Wiscasset resident, David Sutter, spoke in favor for having a white vinyl or composite fence with a gate that could be opened and closed.

After further discussion (30 minutes) on the entrance and archway, about an open entrance or gate under an archway, Peter shared that he didn't think the entryway needed a gate, as seen in Concept design D. He felt that gates often have maintenance problems and need constant repair and he'd rather see it open. Steve liked the archway but preferred it to have a fence across the entrance and under the archway.

Peter makes a motion for the Concept D archway without a gate, granite steps, granite pillars, and granite benches as shown in Concept 'D' and Anthony 2nd this motion. The Committee voted in favor 3-1 for this motion.

(Becky sent her opinion via an email to the Committee as she agreed with having an archway with granite pillars, granite steps, granite benches and no gate.)

There was a conversation regarding ADA/accessibility issues, and it was agreed that the ADA entrance will be adjacent to the Boy Scout and Girl Scout building. One entrance needs to be ADA compliant and the entrance adjacent to this building is level and accessible.

3b) Anthony motions that the Cemetery Committee next visit the Evergreen Cemetery at 5 pm on August 2nd, (park in the Public Works parking lot to meet), Peter 2^{nds} this motion. The group will then reconvene at the Town Office for their 6pm meeting.

3c) Lamination of the Cemetery location map – Sarah Whitfield will take care of this and it will be sent out. Peter thought that before it is sent out, he'd like to add colors, labels and graphics to more easily read it so Sarah agreed to bring the map to the next meeting before she sends it out for lamination.

New business:

4a) By-Laws template will be discussed at the August 2 meeting. A copy will be given to Mark Light and Terri Wells, as two new members for their review.

4b) The committee can start to make recommendations and plan on how to start renovating some of the existing headstones. (MOCA has workshops for stone renovation, etc. and we can look into these.)

Peter motioned to adjourn at 7:15, Steve 2nd this motion.

Terri Wells, Acting Secretary