

**Town of Wiscasset  
Cemetery Committee**

**MINUTES**

April 3, 2023

1. Present: Peter Wells, Becky Applin, Mark Light, Steve Christiansen Suzanne Rankin.

The meeting was called to order at 5:58 by Becky Applin.

2. A motion to accept the December 12, 2022 Minutes was made by Peter Wells and seconded by Steve Christiansen, which was approved (5-0).

3. Old Business:

3a) Cemetery Map. Steve presented his revisions to the Wiscasset cemetery map, which he updated and annotated. Peter will revise the graphics and update the map. Becky noted that she was excited about the prospect of the updated map and database being published, both for historical value and because she has been approached by people asking for information about our cemeteries.

3b) Budget submission. Becky provided estimates costs for 3 days of cemetery restoration, amounting to \$3931.00 including lodging for the restoral team and portable restrooms if needed. Steve said it didn't matter which cemetery was restored, all need work. Becky reminded us that we had planned to start with the Ancient Cemetery as is the most visible, but it is not in bad condition. Suzanne asked if there were local restorers available, since the quote was from someone in New York. Becky said she was impressed with the NY group she quoted, but there were likely others around and we were welcome to shop around.

Steve noted the tree service completed in the Ancient Cemetery over the winter, and added that there is more work needed. He did not have details about Public Works' submission for the 2023-2024 budget submission for cemetery maintenance and upkeep, but added that it is all pretty standard year to year. We discussed specifics of the Town budget process, and Peter noted that last year we were able to use contingency funds to cover the overrun in the Ancient Cemetery fence cost compared to the budget, but cautioned that this should not be the normal way of doing things.

Peter said that the accepted bid for the Ancient Cemetery entryway did not actually include the metal arch. He has requested estimates from several metal manufacturers. One company estimate came back at \$12,500, he is waiting for another, and several declined to bid. It may be worthwhile exploring a fundraising effort to cover the gap, in

order to begin the arch construction sooner, otherwise we will need to submit a budget request for next year. This could be on the November 2023 warrant. Peter said the granite posts will not be complete until June or July, and the metal arch construction can not be started until the granite is complete so the exact measurements can be used. Another option is to consider and explore grant opportunities (i.e., MOCA).

Becky wants to fill the gaps in Jane Tucker's cemetery database. This will take time and effort but no money.

4. New business: Election of officers. Tonight was Becky's last meeting as she is stepping down from the committee. She was thanked for her time and effort as President and wished well! We decided to defer election of officers until the full committee contingent is established and approved by the Select Board. In the interim, Mark will send out the agenda for the next meeting, and will draft and submit Cemetery Committee input for the Town Annual Report.

Steve motioned to adjourn at 6:55, Suzanne seconded the motion which was approved (5-0).

The next meeting will be Monday, May 1, 2023 at 6pm at the Town Office.

*Mark Light*  
Secretary