

Minutes
20 January 2016
Cemetery Board of Trustees
Joint Meeting with Trustees of Trust Funds
Town of Wilton NH

The meeting began at shortly after 7 p.m. with 3 Cemetery Trustees: John Jowders , Steve Elliot, Mary Ann Shea and 2 Trustees of the Trust Funds: Dan Donovan, Betsy Castro .

The primary purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Perpetual Care accounts and their associated maintenance costs. The 3 town cemeteries (Vale End, South Yard, and Laurel Hill) and the Catholic cemetery (Mount Calvary) all have grave lots with specific perpetual care funds in trust. The Cemetery Board has made counts of the total graves in each of these cemeteries, and has counts of how many graves (by individual lot) are in perpetual care. These counts for Mount Calvary and Laurel Hill were previously given to the Trustees of the Trust Funds, and counts for Vale End and South Yard were given to them at the meeting. The Cemetery Board has also supplied the per-grave maintenance cost for each of the Cemeteries to the Trustees of the Trust Funds. This will give the Trustees of the Trust Funds the information they need to determine how much interest from each perpetual care trust may be allocated for maintenance of those graves with perpetual care funds.

The two Boards discussed the numbers and looked for discrepancies. Betsy still needs to add the counts for Vale End and South Yard to her list, so she will be contacting the Cemetery Board if there are any issues that come up.

The amount of interest in the Perpetual Care Trust Funds will exceed the amount spent on care of the lots in perpetual care this year. This is a source of frustration for both Boards, and many other NH towns are dealing with the same issue. The total amount in the Perpetual Care funds is not insubstantial, but as it currently stands, only the interest accrued each year may be used on the associated lot and only the amount used in that year for maintenance of that lot may be charged against the interest. There is talk of state legislation to offer some relief, but this route has been tried before without success.

It was noted that our Cemetery Rules and Regulations were changed to read “general care” where the rules had previously stated “perpetual care”. The Right to Inter document has not included the terms “perpetual care” since around 1981 or 1982, but the Rules and Regulations still included it. Thus, all lots sold during that time are considered to have perpetual care and have Perpetual Care Trust Fund accounts associated with them.

The two Boards discussed where future proceeds from the sale of cemetery lots should be deposited. This needs to be decided through a warrant article at town meeting. There are 2 options-deposit to the general fund, or create a new trust for general cemetery care. Having previously met with the Board of Selectmen to discuss this, the Cemetery Board proposes that the monies be deposited in a Trust created for general cemetery maintenance-the Selectmen will be writing up said warrant article. For now, payments should still be made out to the Trustees of the Trust Funds, and they will handle them as decided at town meeting in March.

Resident Tracey Ewing came in during the meeting and asked about the focus of our meeting, and

Betsy explained the perpetual fund issue.

Other Business (Cemetery Board):

One request for refund was received from Mrs. Abby (Bart) Fraser for a 2-grave lot in Mt. Calvary. She has provided her original deed/right to inter document, and the paperwork was given to Betsy to send the refund.

Briefly discussed a lot request from Yolanda Edwards to clarify which lot she is interested in purchasing (lot adjoining previously purchased lot). The map and paperwork indicate that she owns lot #147 in the New Resurrection section of Mount Calvary, so it appears the lot she wants to purchase is lot 162.

Collette Paro has also inquired about a lot in Mt. Calvary; Mary Ann will meet with her next week.

The Cemetery Board will not meet on January 26, but will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, February 23, 2016, at 7:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.