

**Minutes**  
**20 October 2015**  
**Cemetery Board of Trustees/Trustees of the Trust Funds**  
**Town of Wilton NH**

The meeting began at 6:55 p.m. with 3 Cemetery Trustees (John Jowders (Chair), Steve Elliot, Mary Ann Shea (Secretary)) and 2 Trustees of the Trust Funds (Dan Donovan, Betsy Castro) attending.

Steve made a motion to accept the minutes of 29 September 2015. Mary Ann seconded, all in favor.

**Old Business:**

- Perpetual Care Trust Fund Discussion/Clarification
  - The Cemetery Board of Trustees discussed the Perpetual Care Fund issue with Betsy Castro and Dan Donovan of the Trustees of the Trust Funds. We are trying to understand the best way to get the information we need in order to properly allocate the Perpetual Care income each year. Included in the discussion were the following:
    - How lots/graves should be counted, and the most efficient way to do so.
    - How to best figure out how many graves in a lot under perpetual care.
    - The configurations of the 4 cemeteries in town, and the difficulty in counting lots/graves in the 2 older cemeteries (Vale End and South Yard). There are very few records for these 2 cemeteries, and no comprehensive maps showing the layout of the lots/graves.
    - What can be done with income from funds in Trust not designated as Perpetual Care.
  - Dan Donovan gave some clarification on the subject of cy pres and what it means, as well as if it might be an option for our situation.
  - Our Right to Inter form was changed between 1981 and 1982 so that it no longer specified Perpetual Care, so we do have a number of trust funds that are not Perpetual Care funds. What do we do with them? Can we access that income?
  - If we no longer deposit payments for Rights to Inter into Perpetual Care Trust Funds, where should the money go? To the town general fund? This will need to be discussed with the Board of Selectmen. Steve contacted Pam to put us on the agenda for the next Selectmen's meeting. We will also ask about having town counsel look into how (or if) we can access the income from the non-perpetual care funds in trust. Dan volunteered to speak to town counsel on our behalf, and we would appreciate that.
  - John and Steve have done a bit of work counting lots/graves at Vale End and South Yard. We looked at some of the numbers in comparison to Perpetual Care Trust Funds for the two cemeteries. We used a spreadsheet of existing Trust Funds that Betsy Castro provided, and will continue to use that information as the work of developing a formula for each cemetery continues.
  - A few of the basics of Perpetual Care fund use were reviewed-the funds may only be used for perpetual care lots, and may not include any maintenance of common areas, roads, or unsold lots/graves. The Cemetery Board sends a bill to the Trustees of the Trust Funds at the end of the year for the lots under perpetual care. Only the income from the current year may be accessed from the Perpetual Care funds.
  - Mount Calvary and Laurel Hill counts are TBD; these cemeteries have better maps and more documentation. They should be relatively easy to count. They also have more perpetual care fund accounts than the other 2 cemeteries.

Betsy and Dan left the meeting once we finished discussing the perpetual care issues. The meeting continued with other ongoing business:

- Alden Fox (Laurel Hill Lot 94)-Mary Ann returned a call to Gail Fox; Gail is still certain that Irene Racine was moved after her original burial in 2008. Steve has been to the cemetery with Brent Hautanen (Chief of Police) to investigate this claim, and has found no indication that Irene's cremated remains were ever moved. Mary Ann explained to Gail that Alden bought lot 94, that Irene was buried in lot 94, and that Irene is still in lot 94. Alden had initially purchased the Right to Inter for 6 burials; a refund was give on 4 grave lots. Gail claimed the refund is not in Alden's records. Betsy Castro found a record of the check having been deposited and we have a copy of that information. Mary Ann will forward all of the information regarding Lot 94 to Chief Hautanen, and any further inquiries regarding Lot 94 from the family will be referred to him.
- McGrath Lot-damaged stones. Steve has order 4 replacement stones and the stones will be installed when received.
- Right to Inter-what happens when someone cannot produce proof of ownership of the Right? Without documentation, this must go to probate court; there is no waiver of responsibility allowing any other option. We have had a couple of questions in this regard recently-the original documents are important and need to be handled, stored and recorded accordingly. The Board does not have the authority to decide if someone may be buried in a particular lot; only the owner of the Right to Inter has that authority.
- Mary Ann will rewrite the Cemetery Rules and Regulations to change the wording from "perpetual care" to "general care", and will provide a new master copy to Doreece at Town Hall. It will also be posted on the Cemetery Board web page.
- Abby (Bart) Fraser will be sending a copy of her cemetery deed to be forwarded to the Trustees of the Trust funds for a refund on her lot in Mount Calvary.
- Still no word from Carl Michaud regarding either the cremated remains at the funeral home or the poly vaults.

#### **Public Input:**

None

#### **Budget Discussion:**

We spent some time going over the current budget and getting a preliminary idea of what next year's budget should look like. The current budget looks good; we have a few things left to do this year (mower engine, supplies, tree removal, some stone repair work still tbd), and discussed things we'd like to do next year (fence repair at Laurel Hill, begin to have surveying/mapping done at Vale End and South Yard). Plan to invite Dawn Tuomala to a meeting in February or March of 2016 to discuss mapping.

John will be getting an estimate on tree removal in South Yard.

#### **New Business:**

- A request to purchase 4 additional lots in Vale End was received from Michelle Hussey; since she already owns 4 lots, we felt that our rules required us to discuss the issue. It was decided to

- allow her to purchase 4 additional lots in Vale End.
- We received an email from the NRPC regarding updating our Master Plan. We discussed what needed to be updated and John will meet with Camille regarding the changes.

**Next Meeting:**

To be held on Tuesday, November 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Mary Ann made a motion to adjourn at 8:29 p.m., Steve seconded, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Shea, Secretary