

CEMETERY TRUSTEES MEETING

June 27, 2012

7:00 pm Town Office Building

Present: Dale Milne, Charles Moore, Linda Welch – Cemetery Trustees
Frank Anderson, Leigh Callaway – Selectman
Susan Chiarella, Angela MacCreighton – Trustees of Trust Funds

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Selectman, Leigh Callaway.

Susan and Angela had questions for the cemetery trustees regarding the origination of the money in the cemetery checkbook, held by the ToTF, how past records have been kept, past minutes. They intend to do further research, practice due diligence, on where the money originated while acknowledging this may not be accomplished due to lack of records. The account is now frozen and will eventually be closed out, the money turned over to the town general fund. A new cemetery account (checkbook) will then be opened. Discussion regarding a Warrant Article, presented at Town Meeting, would be needed to earmark these funds for use for cemetery purposes.

They reported other possible sources of money for cemetery purposes: DAR will contribute to care of graves for Revolutionary and Civil War veterans; Historical Societies may contribute for historical properties; families can be asked for donations for expense of flowers and other care.

Cemetery trustees are to determine the costs to maintain the perpetual care lots for a year. This amount can then be drawn out of the perpetual care funds interest amount by voucher prepared by the cemetery trustees and given to the trustees of the trust funds. The path of how these funds are then used to offset the maintenance costs needs further examination.

The current amount of interest from the John Philbrick perpetual care fund is \$31.68. The cost to fix the stone on this lot is \$600. The Loveland lot is a perpetual care lot, the cost to fix the gate is \$500; the cost to fix the fence has not yet been determined. The Veteran's Memorial Statute is town property; Leigh will ask Janet to see if this repair could be covered by town insurance. The cost to fix the statute has not yet been determined.

There are six special requests for flowers to be placed on graves on Memorial Day. All six are for perpetual care lots. ToTF have previously taken care of these requests; cemetery trustees will do so in the future. The cost (approximately \$40 this year) will be paid by accessing funds from these perpetual care funds by voucher presented to the trustees of trust funds. It is recognized that these six funds did not earn enough interest this year, or in other years, to pay for this expense. AG's office suggests choosing paying for maintenance over paying for special requests. Discussed possibility of using other funds in the budget for these six special requests.

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Frank mentioned two trust funds which were managed by the church. When the church closed, the funds went to the church in Sunapee. Susan said she would investigate this further providing Frank supply approximate dates these funds might have transferred.

The next meeting was scheduled for August 22nd, 7:00 pm, town office building.

Leigh reported there is about \$1,300 left in the budget. The work for fixing the pound and the roads in the cemetery was put on hold pending the outcome of findings of available funds to pay for fixing the vandalized items. Motion made, seconded, and passed to use funds appropriated in the budget, \$400, to fix the roads. Frank to coordinate this with Pete. Motion made, seconded, and passed to use \$400 left from the purchase of a new mower to fix the stone walls of the pound. Frank to coordinate this with Kevin Roberts. Motion made, seconded, and passed to expend the cost of rain gear for Frank to come out of balance in "new equipment" line. Frank to speak with Pete to see where they purchased the rain gear for the highway department crew.

Frank mentioned the requirement in the rules and regulations for all lots to have corner markers installed by the owners. This is not being adhered to, discussion for another meeting.

Leigh has written the Government Center for information on receiving donations for cemetery purposes.

Linda provided a few bits of information from the trusteesseminar in Concord:

fences are no longer required, but are recommended;

when amending rules and regulations, a hearing is required;

burial sites outside the cemeteries should be located on the town tax map, there is a 25' protective buffer around these sites prohibiting any disturbances, this information transfers with the property;

RSA 231.63 and 289.7 – parallel laws designating highway department or trustees for managing cemetery maintenance

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Submitted by:
Linda Welch

