

**SPRING GROVE CEMETERY TRUSTEES  
MINUTES January 10, 2019**



Present: Sandra Dearborn, William Canane, Gail Ralston, Don Robb

Also Present William Habib, Jacobs Ladder; Tom Urbulis, Town Counsel; Attorney Mark Johnson on behalf of J&J Ball Realty Trust; Janyce Ball, resident of 47 Spring Grove Rd.; Dr. Michael Roberts, resident of 26 Spring Grove Rd

Sandra Dearborn called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

**New Business**

William Habib from Jacobs Ladder spoke with the Trustees in regards to building a Community Mausoleum at Spring Grove Cemetery. The Trustees will discuss further, visit a local Mausoleum and possibly set up an online survey for residents.

**Land Swap Proposal – 47 Spring Grove Road**

At the December 6, 2018 meeting, the Trustees requested that Paul Sanborn walk the land that J&J Ball Realty Trust wishes to convey to the Town to determine if it is usable and of value to Spring Grove Cemetery. Paul Sanborn and Dan Verrington walked the land in question and determined that the 14,151 Sq. Ft parcel is of no use for cemetery development or storage due to the proximity to the edge of wetlands. This determination was relayed to the Board of Trustees by Paul Sanborn via. Email dated 12/12/18.

The Trustees were asked by Town Counsel to make a recommendation to swap or sell the land in question to J&J Ball Realty Trust. Discussion followed.

Dr. Michael Roberts, resident of 26 Spring Grove Road asked the following: “How did this happen? Who is responsible?” It was explained by Attorney Mark Johnson that building permits were issued to the homeowner by the Town of Andover back in 1979 and in 1978.

Dr. Roberts then asked, “Where is the value of the land coming from?” A Real Estate Appraisal Report was prepared by Peter F. Reilly and made available to the Trustees by Attorney Mark Johnson at the December 6, 2018 meeting.

Dr. Roberts asked, “Can the resident be asked or made remove the addition and garage that is built on Town owned land?” Attorney Urbulis stated, “Yes, that has been done in the past on conservation land”

Dr. Roberts asked, “Has this ever happened before?” Attorney Urbulis stated, “Mistakes happen”

Dr. Roberts asked, "Why doesn't the Board of Trustees abstain from making a recommendation?" The Board has been asked by Town Counsel to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectman regarding this proposal.

Dr. Roberts also stated that he does not believe that the Town has the authority to okay a swap or purchase of land and that this sets a terrible precedent. Town Counsel informed Dr. Roberts that this has to go in front of the Board of Selectman, Town Meeting and finally State Legislature before approval is made.

A motion to recommend that the Town sell the parcel of land in question to J&J Ball Realty trust was made by Don Robb. Bill Canane seconded the motion. Vote to recommend the sale was unanimous.

Attorney Johnson will be submitting a Town meeting warrant article prior to the January 25, 2019 deadline. Attorney Johnson will bring the warrant article to the next Spring Grove Cemetery Board of Trustees meeting for the Trustees to make a recommendation.

### **Minutes**

Gail Ralston motioned to accept minutes of the December 6, 2018 meeting. Don Robb seconded the motion. Vote to approve was unanimous.

### **Financials**

Financials were distributed and discussed

### **Staff Report**

\*The new gate at the Abbot Street entrance is being installed next week. Trustees would like barrels set up in front of the new gate for a few weeks for safety reasons

\*The Airplane gate at the Spring Grove Road entrance will most likely be installed in the Spring

\*One of the granite markers in the Veterans section was struck by a Funeral Director. Cemetery staff will straighten the mark

### **Other**

The trustees discussed the possibility of placing signs at the entrances that there is a "Funeral in Progress"

Sandy Dearborn asked the other Trustees to look over the Rules and Regulations that need updating. The Trustees would like to invite the new Veterans Director, Mark Comeiro to attend an upcoming meeting.

Next Meeting: February 14, 2019

Don Robb motioned to adjourn the meeting and Gail Ralston seconded. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.