

## SPRING GROVE CEMETERY TRUSTEES MINUTES April 18, 2019



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

Also present: Tom Urbelis, Town Counsel; Chris Huntress, Board of Selectman; Alex Vispoli, Board of Selectman; Attorney Mark Johnson on behalf of J&J Ball Realty Trust; Janyce Ball, resident of 47 Spring Grove Rd.; Paul Sanborn, Superintendent Parks & Grounds, Forestry and Cemetery; Peter Whitman, Commander American Legion Post 8. Several Resident were also present

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

### **Transfer of property at 47 Spring Grove Road**

Attorney Mark Johnson on behalf of J&J Ball Realty Trust has submitted a Town Meeting Warrant Article. The purpose of Warrant Article 64 Spring Grove Cemetery Transfer of Property is to see if the Town will vote to transfer or sell the care, custody and control of the property located on 47 Spring Grove Road. The Spring Grove Cemetery Trustees voted unanimously at the February 14, 2019 meeting to recommend the approval of Article 64 (Formally Article P57).

The Trustees have been asked to revisit based on some new information that was found in the Conservation files.

Sandra Dearborn opened up the meeting for public comment. Dr. Michael Roberts, resident of 26 Spring Grove Road expressed his disapproval of Article 64. Dr. Roberts presented three (3) documents to the Trustees including a map and two (2) building permit applications. Dr. Roberts questioned whether the land is useful to the Cemetery. Several other residents spoke and expressed their approval of the Article and their support for the resident of 47 Spring Grove Road.

Sandra Dearborn reiterated to the group that the Trustees had already voted based on recommendations from Chris Cronin, DPW Director; Paul Sanborn, Superintendent of Parks & Grounds, Forestry and Cemetery and Dan Verrington, Cemetery Working Foreman. The Board of Selectmen has requested another appraisal of the land. The owner of 47 Spring Grove Road has agreed to pay for another appraisal to be done.

Don Robb explained that it is not within the purview of the Trustees to determine if permits were given and proper documentation was done. Questions about permits is irrelevant and other Boards are responsible for that. Sandra D stated that the Trustees have already voted on this.

Dick Morrissey motioned for the Trustees to uphold their vote from the February 14, 2019 meeting. Bill Canane seconded the motion. The Trustees voted unanimously to uphold the vote taken at the previous meeting.

The trustees agreed that they do not have to issue a statement from the Board for Town Meeting regarding Article 64. If any member of the Board chooses to speak, they can do so by giving their own opinion.

### **New Business**

The Trustees spoke with Selectman Huntress about making some esthetic changes to the Spring Grove Cemetery after the Parks Department moves to the new Municipal Services building. Mr. Huntress offered to work with the Trustees to come up with a Masterplan that they could work on over the next year. There is also a possibility of applying for a grant.

Peter Whitman, Commander of American Legion Post 8 spoke to the Trustees about the fees for Veterans burials. He would like to see the fee stay at no charge. The Trustees agree. Bill C. would like the fees for Veterans and spouses to be clarified in the Rules and Regulations booklet. He would also like to clarify what happens if a Veteran's spouse passes away before the Veteran.

The Trustees would like to get information from other local cemeteries. Don Robb asked if the DPW would be willing to survey other cemeteries and have any changes ready by the June meeting. Any changes to fees will have to go in front of the Board of Selectmen.

### **Minutes**

Don Robb motioned to accept minutes of the February 14, 2019 meeting with corrections made. The Trustees voted unanimously to approve the minutes with corrections.

### **Financials**

Financials were distributed and discussed

### **Staff Report**

The gates on Abbot Street have been installed. The green pipe gate at Spring Grove Road entrance will be installed.

Parks department is still scheduled to move to the new Municipal Services building.

The flag on the hill will go up and lights will go on.

There is a Cemetery employee that is still out on medical leave. There will be a second part time employee starting at the cemetery in May.

Cemetery staff will remove Christmas decorations that are still up.

Arbor Day event will take place at 9:00am on 4/26/19 at Spring Grove Cemetery. National Grid Crews will be in trimming/pruning trees and removing branches. There will be a Magnolia tree planted at the front entrance of the cemetery

Paul Sanborn will look at the drainage down by the Ritzer grave.

Sunken spots will be seeded, flowers will be planted near the entrance sign, Veterans section will be cleaned up, and loam will be spread.

### **Other**

Peter Whitman spoke to the Trustees about it being the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Legion. American Legion Post 8 would like to clean up the monument and add some inscription to the back of the monument. The Trustees approved. Sandy Dearborn mentioned splitting the cost of this work with Post 8. Bill C. motioned to offer to split the cost of the lettering and cleaning of the monument. Dick Morrissey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Veterans Director, Mark Comeiro has invited the Trustees to attend the Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 27, 2019 at 8:00am Spring Grove Cemetery.

The next meeting will take place on Friday, May 17, 2019 at Spring Grove Cemetery. This will be a walk through meeting. The Trustees would like Veteran's Services Director, Mark Comeiro to be invited to the walk through.

Dick Morrissey motioned to adjourn the meeting. Gail seconded and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm