

Town of New Durham
Cemetery Trustees Meeting
January 26, 2010

In Attendance:

Tom Mason
Michele Kendrick
Joan Martin
Cathy Orlowicz

The meeting started at approximately 7:00 PM.

1. Tom Mason stated that he had clarified with the Budget Committee the 67% increase in the Cemetery Budget. He explained most of it was due to the increase in number of burials and the increased cost of lawn maintenance. It was reiterated that all costs in the budget were covered by the interest of the two cemetery trust funds for the John C Shirley Cemetery.
2. The Budget Committee sent out an E-mail request that all departments try to cut back their budgets. Tom suggested that the money in the 1988 Uncared for Graveyard Trust be given back to the General Fund since it cannot legally be dispersed based on the original intent of the fund.

The question was raised as to how the approximately \$25,000.00 had built up in the Trust. Michele Kendrick stated that the original Warrant Article of 1988 started the Trust with \$300.00 and another \$300.00 was put in the next year. Cathy Orlowicz explained that in the next number of years \$1000.00 had been placed in the Trust.

\$700.00 had also been appropriated from the Town's General Fund for doing the work associated with declaring graveyards abandoned. Tom Mason explained that in 2006 some of the public money was going to be expended but could not because the graveyard was private property.

Mr. Mason reported that the Cemetery Trustees have no information on the location and condition of these graveyards and without this information a plan for their maintenance and care cannot be formulated. Mr. Mason suggested that the townspeople have been more than generous through the years putting money in this fund and, since very little of the money has ever been used, we should return their generosity. We can give the money back to the town and request money as we need it in the future.

A motion was made by Michele Kendrick to:

- Investigate taking funds from the 6/9/88 Uncared for Graveyard Trust to return the Principal and Interest to the General Fund. When the process was clearly understood by the Trustees, the funds would be returned.

- Establish a new fund for the same purpose at a later date.

Tom Mason seconded the motion. Mr. Mason and Mrs. Kendrick voted yea and Mrs. Martin voted nay. The vote carried.

2. Cathy Orlowicz asked to be put on the agenda of the next meeting to address the process of declaring graveyards abandoned and the Trustees agreed.

3. A motion was made by Joan Martin to close the meeting and was seconded by Michele Kendrick. The vote was unanimously in favor.

The meeting ended at 7:43PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Kendrick
Cemetery Trustee