

**Minutes of Tamworth Trustees of Trust Funds & Cemeteries
Cook Memorial Library and Chocorua Cemetery
2 PM, Tuesday, 20 September 2011**

**Present ~ Trustees: David Haskell, John Wheeler, Alexandra Cook
Also present ~ Board of Selectmen: John Roberts, Will Farnum, Bob Abraham. As well attending were Paul King, Dennis Dicey, Joan Cassarotto.**

The first topic discussed involved the Selectmen. They told the Trustees that they don't want a storage/utility building built at any of the Town Cemeteries. Last year at direction from the Selectmen the small storage building at Ordination Rock Cemetery was removed. They said their reasons against building another building are liability issues, insurance costs and maintenance. They cited that last year, when the topic was first proposed for a new storage building, it was partially intended for the storage of private equipment used by the contractors that take care of the cemeteries. They do not want to see buildings put up for that reason. David did mention that it would be good to have a building for storage of cemetery related items (i.e. flags, veterans medallions, broken stones, etc.). The Selectmen said the basement of the Town House could be used for storage. It was mentioned that legal statutes indicate a building would have to be approved as a specific budget item. John Wheeler did write the Local Government Center to find out if the Trustees have the right to put up a building and the LGC verified that indeed the Trustees could. The Trustees forwarded this letter to the Board of Selectmen this past summer.

Will Farnum brought up the matter of the Trustees of Trust Funds and Cemeteries and the pairing of these two duties. He has done research and has found nothing in Town Meeting records that show these duties have been combined. To the best of everyone's knowledge this system has been going on about a half century or more and working well. He told the Trustees that possibly a Warrant Article will have to be presented to the voters in March 2012 remedying the situation by officially combining the two duties.

The next item discussed was the signing of cemetery deeds when a plot is purchased. The Trustees have been signing the deeds and have been for decades. It was discovered that perhaps the Selectman should be signing the deeds. John Wheeler asked if they would like us

to continue signing the deeds as we have been for the sake of convenience. They agreed it was fine with them but that this will be clarified at the next Town Meeting.

The receiving of donations to the Trustees for care of the cemeteries was discussed. Currently there is no way we can handle these type of monies. A Warrant Article may be needed at next Town Meeting to amend this. John Wheeler will contact the Attorney General's office for guidance on this matter.

Ownership of some Town properties was discussed. Ownership of Ordination Rock is in the name of the Board of the Selectmen but the management of that property is under the auspices of the Trustees of Trust Funds. The Old Town House property (corner of Cleveland Hill Road and Hollow Hill Road) is owned by the Trustees of Trust Funds. David will get the deed for this property to the Selectmen. At this point Will Farnum questioned whether or not the Trustees of Trust Funds can actually own properties. He also questioned whether the Trustees of Cemeteries actually exists. There was no further discussion.

Alexandra addressed the Selectmen and said that the Trustees appreciate suggestions and ideas from them but they cannot direct us in our jobs and tell us what to do. She said that the Trustees are elected officials and answerable to the voters and get direction from the Attorney Generals Office.

John Wheeler said he hopes the Board of Selectmen are not offended by our consulting with the Local Government Center and the Attorney General's office to clarify our position as Trustees.

Paul King spoke to the Trustees about marking more corners in the Wonolancet and Chocorua (Coville section) cemeteries to make plot finding more accurate and easier. He said the cost of the granite markers would be \$25-\$30. David will meet with Paul to work up a proposal.

David also said that he received, from Joan Cassarotto, a current list of grave stones in the Chocorua Cemetery that need repair. It was very helpful of her to do that for the Trustees and they appreciate her work. David will review it.

The Trustees are still working on choosing a software system to put records on. We feel it is needed. John Wheeler said we are

considering asking the Tamworth Foundation for monies to get a system set up and going. The Trustees of Trust Funds have never asked the Tamworth Foundation for money in the past. David has talked to 4 companies. The Selectmen said it would be best to put it in the budget and then if we get funding before the Town Meeting it can be amended.

The balance of funds as of 8/31/11 is \$605,996. We earn almost no income. The Trustees earlier this year met with Warren Mackensen of Mackensen & Company about joining a coalition of towns to invest together and produce more income. We could go from approximately .03% (which is at no risk) to approximately 4% (which is at a small risk). Trustees voted unanimously to shelf this discussion for another year or so when Mackensen has more of a track record and the economy is better. The Board of Selectmen agreed with this policy. John Wheeler will send Mr. Mackensen a letter.

Will Farnum told us we should check with the Northway Bank to see if we can become a True North customer which can give us a slightly better rate.

The Trustees budget is due October 3d. We will add \$3,000 to it (as a new line item) for computer programming and maintenance. And we will attempt to get a grant or gift to pay for the software program (as mentioned earlier in these minutes).

Talking about the computer programming brought up the way the records are currently kept. Record keeping has not changed much in decades and they are on 3x5 cards which are kept at David's house since he uses them the most. It was decided David will arrange with the Town Office to have them copied so there will be back up copies. This is an excellent idea.

Our next meeting will be at 2 PM at the Cook Library on Tuesday, October 18, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra Cook, Trustee

