

**TOWN OF KINGSTON, NH TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: Monday, March 18, 2024
TIME: 6:30 PM
PLACE: Kingston Fire Department

Members present: Brad Maxwell, Karen Coombs, John Pramberg, Kim Donahue
Others present: Rich Tremblay, Trustee Treasurer, Lisa Perreault, Highway Department

Mr. Maxwell called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM

The minutes of the meeting of the Trustees of the Trust Funds from February 19, 2024 were reviewed and unanimously approved as submitted.

CEMETERY BUSINESS:

Lisa Perreault provided an update on the cemeteries. Two burials have taken place so far this year: 1. Greenwood on 2/10/24 and 2. Pine Grove 1/04/24. No additional lots have sold in 2024.

Lisa discussed a forester visit to the cemeteries and his thoughts on the wooded parcels, tree growth and fence line. All of the ash trees are not healthy and have bug infestation plus the maples are stressed. These trees will need to be replaced within the next 5 years. Tall pines at entrance are ok. Forester recommended oaks as they will likely survive in the soil. Discussion around how to take care of new trees, how would they be watered, etc. There was a discussion about the possibility of planting trees now before the others are gone. Karen suggested finding a veteran owned nursery to donate the trees or see if individuals would like to donate a tree.

Lisa had spoken to funeral director about burial costs. Average casket burial is currently a minimum of \$10k. Cremation is approximately \$1,400. Many people opt for cremations due to cost. Based on this information, Lisa has done research into other options besides lot purchases. She spoke to Exeter cemetery as they are now doing "cremation gardens". These are called columbariums, and it is used to store cremated remains. You place the urn in a niche. They build a circular structure around a center object (such as a flagpole) and then charge \$1,400 per niche (which is the place you place the urn). They can be built in many different styles to accommodate design and land and with different number of niches. Exeter is a private cemetery and now has 3 columbariums. Cost is unknown at this time but would be based on size of structure. It was agreed it was something that should be investigated further. New Market, NH does do "green burials" which is a wooden coffin, no metal and everything goes back to the earth as there is no vault. Not something Kingston is interested in at this time.

TREASURY BUSINESS:

Paula was on the agenda for tonight but didn't make it. We will request that she attend the April 15th meeting. The committee will also ask that Paula provide quarterly updates on the budget.

Invoices:

- Lisa has purchased a book as a point of reference for historical research of vital statistics from the town. \$65.00 invoice submitted from Genealogical.com for reimbursement as she purchased via a credit card.
- The committee signed off on Kingston Public Works invoice of \$1,000 for cemetery monthly upkeep.
- Joseph Ferraro Trust Scholarship was reviewed and approved for payment. \$300 disbursement approved. Rich to write check payable to the school to disburse to student.

Discussion about the food pantry trust fund as it continues to grow. Brad proposed a transfer \$15k to PDIP. John seconded and all were in favor. Motion moves forward.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Nominations for officers for 2024:

- Brad nominated John for Chair. Karen seconded. Passed as all in favor.
- Kim nominated Karen for Vice Chair. John seconded. Passed as all in favor.
- Kim nominated for Secretary by John. Brad seconded. Passed as all in favor.
- Rich would like to transition from Treasurer by March of 2025. A person needs to be found with bookkeeping or financial experience.

Brad will continue to check the PO Box and continue to be an active participant as a trustee.

Kim will reach out to Susan to update the new officers and committee names. She will also ask Susan to change the time of the meeting to 6:30pm. Kim will ask Susan if we can email minutes to her versus sign and bring a hard copy to Town Hall. It was noted that other committees just email.

The next meeting of the Kingston Trustees of the Trust Funds will be Monday, April 15, 2024 at the Kingston Fire House.

Motion to close the meeting was made by Karen at 8:28pm, Brad seconded. Supported by all members and meeting was adjourned.