

FINAL Minutes of the Cemetery Trustees

Location of Meeting: Boscawen Municipal Facility
 116 North Main Street
 Boscawen, N.H. 03303

Present at Meeting: Rhoda Hardy, Cemetery Trustee Chair
 Beverly Lacoy, Cemetery Trustee
 Dean Hollins, Sexton
 Irene Wright, Alma Bean's Estate Executrix
 Diane Ross, Alma Bean's Daughter
 Raymond Hollins, Alma Bean's Son

The regular meeting of the Cemetery Trustees was called to order at the Boscawen Municipal Facility, 116 North Main Street, Boscawen, N.H. on September 20, 2023, at 9:26 a.m.

Old Business:

1. None.

New Business:

1. Alma Bean - Pine Grove Cemetery: Irene Wright, Alma Bean's Estate Executrix introduced herself and explained the letter which the Cemetery Trustees are reviewing is from the attorney for the estate of her mother, Alma Bean. Irene Wright would like to have the lot purchased by sister, Cindy Peterson, for their mother Alma Bean, be changed to indicate Alma Bean is the lot owner and not Cindy Peterson. Rhoda Hardy questioned if the family was aware that the lot which their mother was buried in was in Cindy Peterson's name. Irene Wright indicated the family just recently became aware of the fact that the lot her mother is interred in does not bear her mother's name as the lot owner. It was always referred to as the mother, Alma Bean's, lot and the family assumed it was in her name and purchased by her. Rhoda Hardy questioned if the lot in question was purchased on August 24, 2021, and how many siblings are in the family. Irene Wright reported the lot was purchased around August 24, 2021, and there are a total of six siblings, three not present at today's meeting. Irene Wright additionally reported that according to her mother, Alma Bean, the money given to Cindy around that date

was so that she could purchase the lot for her mother. Irene Wright also reported Alma was worried she never received any proof of owning the lot and did not realize that Cindy had used the money to purchase the lot in her own name. Diane Ross reported when she asked Cindy Peterson on the day their mother had passed if Alma Bean had a lot that Cindy said she does but never indicated it was in Cindy's name. Rhoda Hardy questioned if there was a reason why Alma did not purchase the lot herself and Irene Wright reported she was 85-86 years old and besides her age they are unsure. Dean Hollins gave some background with regards to the issue. Dean Hollins reported he received a phone call from Cindy Peterson requesting him to meet in the Cemetery as she wanted to purchase a cemetery lot. They met in the Cemetery and some lots were chosen. She indicated she wanted a lot for herself and a lot for her mother, Alma Bean. Additionally, Dean Hollins reported that when he sold both lots he asked who's name should be on the deed, Cindy Peterson instructed him to use her name on the deed. It is standard that a family member purchase a lot for a loved one. Dean Hollins expressed time went by before Alma Bean passed away and when it came time for the funeral the family was not aware of the lot purchase issue. Rhoda Hardy questioned when Alma Bean passed away and Irene Wright reported she passed away in April 2023. Further, Dean Hollins reported all the proper paperwork was done by Nicole Hoyt, Town Clerk, and sent out. Further, when it came time for the services the family had the impression that the mother had a lot because the mother had made a check payable to Cindy Peterson to reimburse her for the lot. Nothing was ever conveyed to Dean Hollins that Alma Bean actually paid for the lot, and it was further noted that Dean Hollins only dealt with Cindy Peterson at the time of purchase. Dean Hollins did not find out about the reimbursement issue until he received the letter from the family's estate attorney. Dean Hollins also reported the family tried to come up with a compromise but there is a disagreement on a headstone. Rhoda Hardy questioned how many spaces this issue involves, and Dean Hollins reported it is a full eight grave lot and Cindy Peterson purchased 2 graves under her name. One currently is empty and the other is the space where Alma Bean is interred in. Dean Hollins further reported the family did come to an agreement and they compromised on a headstone, and they also indicated they would like the lot to be put into their mother's name. Dean Hollins sent an email to Cindy Peterson and expressed that he believed the easiest way to solve the issue is to separate the lot and put one space in Cindy Peterson's name and the other in Alma Bean's name. The response received by Dean Hollins via email was "No". Irene Wright noted that Cindy Peterson is opposed to having the lot in their mother's name. The family reported they do not understand why Cindy Peterson does not want Alma Bean's name as the owner, they are unsure if it is a control issue or what exactly Cindy Peterson's reason is. Rhoda Hardy questioned if Cindy

Peterson was aware that the family was coming to the Cemetery Trustee meeting today regarding this issue. Diane Ross responded Cindy Peterson was aware the meeting was happening. Additionally, Dean Hollins reported Cindy Peterson knew the meeting was taking place, but he is unaware if she knew the family would be attending. Dean Hollins further reported the letter itself was sent directly to Cindy Peterson from the family's estate attorney. Rhoda Hardy questioned if the Cemetery Trustees should refer the issue to their own attorney. Dean Hollins is unsure what direction to proceed with and recommends the Town attorney take a look at it. Further, Dean Hollins reported the information given from the estate attorney clearly identifies that Cindy Peterson was reimbursed for a lot by Alma Bean using Alma Bean's checking account. At the time of purchase the one lot cost was \$325 minus the cost of corner markers. Cindy's lot, being the initial purchase, covers the corner markers. Therefore, in order to separate the lots, it would be the \$325 plus new corner markers. It is believed that Alma Bean was not aware of the corner marker price. Dean Hollins reported that Cindy Peterson did pay for the corner markers which he believes was either \$100 or \$125. Rhoda Hardy asked Dean Hollins if he has a copy of the deed with him which he did not but should have a copy of the deed at his office and Nicole Hoyt, Town Clerk, should also have a copy of the deed. Rhoda Hardy believes the Cemetery Trustees should refer the issue to the Town attorney and requested a list of the six siblings with their contact information be given to her. Irene Wright supplied the Chair with the list of the six siblings and contact information. Beverly Lacey questioned who paid for the corner markers and if there were two sets of corner markers. Dean Hollins explained the corner markers were purchased for both lots as one having four corner markers. Individual corner markers for Alma Bean's lot were never paid for or purchased. Rhoda Hardy departed the meeting to see if someone in the Clerk's Office could supply the Trustees with a copy of the deed. While Rhoda Hardy was away from the meeting various personal discussions took place between everyone present. Rhoda Hardy supplied a list which shows Bean in lot 84 as of February 23, 2004. Rhoda Hardy reported Cindy Peterson paid \$775. Dean Hollins reported she bought 2 lots and one set of corner markers for Lot 70. There is another Bean interred in Lot 80 but it is unknown what Bean is lot 84. The list for the lots was reviewed and Alma Bean's name does not appear on the list and a discussion took place regarding lot 84. Rhoda Hardy explained the Cemetery Trustees will have to consult with their legal counsel regarding this issue. Diane Ross questioned how long it would take before the Cemetery Trustees present this issue to their lawyer and Rhoda Hardy explained it will be done today. The family was thanked for attending by the Cemetery Trustees and the Sexton. Alma Bean's relatives departed the meeting at 10:08 a.m. A brief discussion took place related to Alma Bean's family. Dean Hollins expressed he initially was emailing Irene

Wright and himself and then separately to Cindy Peterson and himself. He then started copying both parties involved in all emails he sent regarding this matter. A discussion took place regarding ownership of the lot and the estate attorneys' letter and phone call to Dean Hollins. Dean Hollins reported to the attorney that the issue would be brought before the Cemetery Trustees and that he is guessing it would be brought to the Town attorney for review and direction. The estate attorney asked Dean Hollins to reach out to him once there was an answer. Rhoda Hardy would like to write down what information is needed and requested a copy of Alma Bean's obituary from Karyn Chagnon which was produced and received. A long discussion took place regarding the lot, purchase, power of attorney, etc. Rhoda Hardy questioned if the Trustees should write a letter to the estate attorney when they receive an answer from legal counsel. Dean Hollins reported that Town Administrator Katie Phelps should be able to help with the writing of the letter to the estate attorney. Dean Hollins explained that Cindy Peterson had picked out a headstone and approved the headstone. Dean Hollins marked out the lot to set the base of where the headstone sits on and the family arrived the same day the concrete base was poured which was the same day the phone call and letter came from the attorney. Rhoda Hardy pointed out that one question which needs to be asked is if the Cemetery Trustees can divide the two-grave lot 70A into two individual lots, void the original deed, and issue two new deeds. Dean Hollins showed the Cemetery Trustees the lot in question on a map along with other lots bought by other family members. Rhoda Hardy questioned what the lot numbers would be if it was divided. Cindy Peterson's would be 70A and Alma Bean would be 70C. Rhoda Hardy would like to know if the lot can be divided and have Alma Bean own 70A and Cindy Peterson own 70C because Irene Wright already purchased 70B. Discussion took place as to what would be an appropriate question to ask legal. A further discussion took place regarding the headstone and where Laconia Monument stands relative to this action. It was reported by Dean Hollins that Cindy Peterson and another sister, Suzie, chose and approved the headstone. Dean Hollins needs to know what he needs to do if the monument is set as he does not know how to proceed with that part of this issue. Rhoda Hardy wants to ask counsel if there is any way the Cemetery Trustees can ensure that the entire families wishes regarding the monument mentation are carried out. Additionally, Rhoda Hardy would like an expediated reply from legal counsel so the Cemetery Trustees can ensure that Alma Bean's wishes are carried out. Dean Hollins noted and reported that he told the entire family he does not want to be involved as the individuals are all his cousins. Additionally, Rhoda Hardy would like to tell legal counsel the Cemetery Trustees are enclosing documentation from the estate attorney. Further discussion took place regarding the payment of the lot and the canceled check from Alma Bean's checking account was reviewed by the

Cemetery Trustees. ***Beverly Lacoey made a motion to have Rhoda Hardy write the letter as discussed to legal counsel for a response. Seconded by Rhoda Hardy. Passed Unanimously.***

Other Business:

1. None.

Approval of minutes from last meeting:

1. *Beverly Lacoey made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 16, 2023. Seconded by Rhoda Hardy. Passed Unanimously.*

Meeting Closed: *Beverly Lacoey made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Rhoda Hardy. Passed Unanimously.* The meeting closed at 11:05 a.m.

Next Meeting: The Next Regular Meeting of the Cemetery Trustees will be held at the Boscawen Municipal Facility, 116 North Main, Boscawen, N.H. on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. Special Meeting of the Cemetery Trustees will be held at the Boscawen Municipal Facility, 116 North Main, Boscawen, N.H. on Wednesday, September 27, 2023.

Minutes submitted by: Lauren Hargrave, Cemetery Trustee Secretary 9/22/2023.