

The Thornton Cemetery Trustees met on June 15, 2022, at the Sugar Shack, Thornton, NH at 4:00pm.

In attendance were Trustees: Geraldine A. Benton-Carbonneau, Mike Benton, Superintendent of Cemeteries, Brad Benton. And resident Alan Uhlman.

A motion was made and accepted to read the minutes from the previous cemetery meeting. The minutes were read by Geraldine and accepted by a unanimous vote.

The first order of business was a report on maintenance of cemeteries from superintendent, Brad who reported he submitted his first bill of the season approximately \$1600.

The cemetery trustee board discussed with resident Alan Uhlman the land he has offered for the town to purchase at \$45,000. Alan has met with the trustees on several occasions wanting to know if the town is interested in this parcel of land. On April 29, 2022, Mike, Gerri, and Brad went to review the land which is adjacent to the Mad River Cemetery. After walking the land looking at the boundaries, which were clearly marked with ribbon, Mike, Gerri and Brad could not see any value to the Mad River Cemetery if the town were to purchase this parcel. The present cemetery lots that border this portion land does not let any big machinery (tractors, trucks etc.) in to dig graves. In addition, the right of way would consume the land directly off Mad River Cemetery. **The trustees agreed that it is not feasible to purchase this land.**

Mike had a couple of concerns pertaining to the setbacks of property lines. The two trustees along with superintendent, Brad letting Alan know in order for the town to utilize this parcel, the town would need to have a right-of-way off Mad River Road and construct a gravel road onto the land to have access to the back portion, which would cost the town some money in addition to the purchase of the land. The trustees asked Alan if he would consider a reduced price for the land and he responded, "No, he wouldn't." The conversation with Alan continued about the asking price was a little more than the land was worth and at this time the town is not in dire need of purchasing more land as the Mad River Cemetery has ample lots. The cemetery trustees and superintendent were aware Alan had been to a selectmen's meeting to see how the selectmen felt about this parcel, but the selectmen referred this issue back to the cemetery trustees. Brad had suggested Alan give it to the town and take a loss on his taxes, and again Alan was not in favor of this suggestion. At this point, Alan thanked the trustees and superintendent for meeting with him to discuss this issue to find clarity between the parties. The trustees let Alan know the price was more than the value of the land. At this point of the meeting, Alan thanks the trustees and left the meeting. Gerri received a text message from Alan stating "Thank you for all your time, however, I do not see that we are much further ahead than we were back in December. I have talked to Debbie Duffy and she will be listing it. I think in twenty years the town will regret not acting on this property." Then on June 16, Alan texted Gerri commenting, "Just to clarify, I am open to the town buying the property as long as I own it."

The cemetery trustees discussed with the superintendent the land was not a promising idea. Gerri had messaged trustee Wendy Johnston, who was unable to attend this meeting due to a previous engagement, as a realtor, she said the asking price was overpriced. She had added from a realtor's perspective, the asking price for the land should be \$15,000.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.