

Town Article 36 – Closure of Designated Cemetery Funds

This article will authorize the Trustees of the Trust Funds to close three Non-expendable Trust funds. The balances will be divided and placed into previously established Capital Reserve Funds. Research by the Trustees and the NH Charitable Trusts Unit has revealed that the incorrectly named “Perpetual Care Fund” does not contain any actual perpetual care funds. The intent is to move funds identified as incorrectly placed in trust fund categories into two existing Capital Reserve Funds (CRF) for the maintenance and expansion of town cemeteries. This will make the full amount of the funds available to the Public Works department whereas now only the interest can be used. This action has no impact on the established Perpetual Care Funds. There is no tax impact.

A YES vote will make these funds available to the Town to pay for cemetery maintenance and expansion.

A NO vote will restrict the use of the funds to interest only and not principal.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To permit the Trustees of the Trust funds to reimburse the Town for cemetery maintenance and expansion costs.
- To correct errors in the past that placed the funds into Non-expendable funds (only interest can be spent). (1)(2)
- To move non perpetual care funds into the Capital Reserve Fund. (3)
- The Trustees of the Trust Fund consulted with and have the approval of the NH Department of Justice Charitable Trusts Unit to make this change. (2)

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To restrict the use of these funds to interest only, not principal.
- To require the maintenance and expansion costs of town cemeteries to come from taxes only.
- Disagree with the recommendations of the NH Department of Justice Charitable Trusts Unit. (3)
- Disagree with the Trustees of the Trust Funds vote to move the funds. (2)

References:

1. 1985 Warrant Article 10: tinyurl.com/yylmbf2s
2. Trustees of the Trust Funds Minutes 11/9/20, Item 3: tinyurl.com/y6kdebco
3. Warrant Article 36 explained: tinyurl.com/y4uh4346