

GORDON ROGERS
61 Cucumber Hill Road
Foster, RI 02825
(401) 255-6357

June 1, 2014

The Honorable Town Council
181 Howard Hill Road
Foster, RI 02825

RE: PERPETUAL CARE OF CEMETERIES

Dear Members of the Council:

This letter is being written in light of recent discussion of perpetual care for cemeteries during budget workshops and adoption of the budget at the Financial Town Meeting which includes a line item for the care of cemeteries. For 150 years or more, monies were contributed to the perpetual care fund by individual donations for care of specific cemetery plots in perpetuity (maintenance and mowing). Only persons donating to the fund were allowed to specify which plots were to be cared for. For the first time in history, the Town of Foster's budget, beginning July 1, 2014, has a line item for perpetual care of cemeteries, and ALL Foster taxpayers are now paying for a portion of the upkeep of cemetery plots by way of taxation.

I, and a group of concerned citizens, feel that since we are contributing to this fund and maintenance of the cemeteries, that we are entitled to the same right of specification as those who have donated to the fund by personal donation.

I am asking that all graves of veterans buried within the Town of Foster's cemeteries (over 150 cemeteries) be treated equally and maintained in the same manner as those on the perpetual care list. A list can be found online or through the preservation society. I would ask that the Council please place this matter on the agenda so that we, as a group, will know if further action needs to be taken as Citizens for the Veterans of the Town of Foster.

Sincerely,

Gordon Rogers