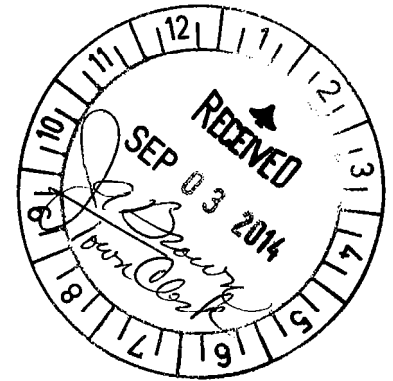


Freetown Cemetery Commission
Minutes of the Thursday, June 26, 2014 Meeting
Town Hall, 3 North Main Street, Assonet, Mass.



Present: Adrienne Levesque and Mike McCue.

Absent: Keven Desmarais

Call to order: Mike McCue called the meeting to order at 2:46p.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of April 8th and June 5th were received. A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque, seconded by Mr. McCue, to approve the minutes as received. The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

The April and May reports were not available.

Appointment of Superintendent

Discussion was held on what the position entailed. A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque, seconded by Mr. McCue, that Mr. McCue continue as Superintendent until June 30, 2015. The motion carried unanimously.

Assonet Burying Ground

Discussion was held on the shed at the Assonet Burying Ground. Mr. McCue stated that the shed was not in the best condition and would require repairs before storing anything in it. Items to be stored would be mostly grass seed and groundskeeping supplies. On consensus, it was agreed to have Mr. Desmarais inspect the shed by July 31st and make recommendations for any repairs or work to be carried out.

Next addressed was the Veterans Section. A location was previously agreed to for the flag pole, and Mr. McCue recommended setting aside the lots to either side of the flag pole to spread mulch and plant flowers. It was agreed that this would make the area more attractive. This would not negate other landscaping plans discussed previously, but could be organized in a relatively short time frame in comparison. Discussion was also held on some form of memorial or other recognition to be placed in the area. Ideas suggested included small memorials for the Korean and Vietnam wars, or displays honoring the four branches of the military. No firm plans were agreed to, but commissioners will give thought over the summer.

Brief discussion was held on a complaint received the previous day regarding decorations damaged in the cemetery thought to be damaged during mowing. The matter was referred to the Highway Department as they are in charge of mowing.

Crapo Cemetery

Mr. McCue reported on the condition of Crapo Cemetery at his last visit. The volunteers working on this property have made a tremendous improvement.

Michael Hathaway Burial Ground

Mr. McCue reported that the Boy Scouts cleared this cemetery earlier in the spring. Tom Copeland has begun treating it with weed killer to stunt any regrowth.

Perpetual Care

Discussion was held on how perpetual care funds are invested and how often this system is reviewed. More information will be sought from the Treasurer in the future.

Prices of Graves

Discussion was held on whether to charge a higher rate for nonresidents. Mrs. Levesque asked whether many coming to the cemeteries were from out of town. Mr. McCue responded that while lot sales have slowed, a high percentage of lot sales are to nonresidents and over 50% of the burials most years are also for nonresidents, often in previously-purchased lots. It was noted that many of the nonresident sales have been for Berkley, which appears not to have any cemetery space available for assignment.

Mr. McCue suggested taking one of three routes: (a) make no change; (b) maintain the current \$800 rate for residents and charge nonresidents \$1,000; or (c) reduce the resident rate to \$700 and charge nonresidents \$900. He noted that calculating for inflation, the \$800 fee established in 2007 was equivalent to \$903 in 2014. All agreed to take this under advisement for the summer.

The rate of sales in the Veterans Section was also discussed. The sales have been slower than anticipated, and it was thought that this was attributable to the fact that the graves in this section carry a cost where the graves in Bourne and Agawam are free. Consideration was given to waiving lot and perpetual care fees in this section. Mr. McCue stated he would prefer to put that question before voters, either at a town meeting or a nonbinding ballot question, because while it would not incur a direct cost it would reduce future anticipated endowments for the cemetery.

Next Meeting

A meeting for August will be scheduled sometime after July 7th.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque, seconded by Mr. McCue, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 3:32p.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Michael T. McCue, Chairman