

Freetown Cemetery Commission
Minutes of the Monday, June 12, 2017 Meeting
Town Hall — Assonet, Mass.

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JA Brown

Present: Adrienne Levesque and Mike McCue.
Absent: Keven Desmarais was absent due to illness.
Call to order: Mike McCue called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

Reorganization, Part II

A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque, seconded by Mr. McCue, that Mr. McCue be reappointed Superintendent of Public Cemeteries for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque, seconded by Mr. McCue, that Richard Brown of South Main Street be appointed as the Assistant Superintendent for the Assonet Burying Ground for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque, seconded by Mr. McCue, that Mr. McCue be reappointed as the single-signature signer of bills, payrolls, etc. for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

Receipt of Minutes / Superintendent's Report

Minutes of April 10th were received. A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque, seconded by Mr. McCue, to accept the minutes as received. The motion carried unanimously. The Superintendent's Reports for April and May, including bills paid since the previous meeting, were also received.

Review Results of Town Meeting

Mr. McCue reported that all articles that had been submitted for the Annual Town Meeting were included in the Warrant and passed by the voters. The new shed is expected to be built in August.

Adopt Policy on Payment Plans

The payment plan policy was reviewed. Mr. McCue explained that this basic procedure had been in place informally for several years, but that there should be something official. A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque, seconded by Mr. McCue, to formally adopt the policy. The motion carried unanimously. A copy is appended to these minutes.

Discussion on Land

Mr. McCue recounted that at one time there had been a fund set aside for purchasing new cemetery land, but that fund, which had never had more than \$3,000 in it, had been wiped out during the recession. He stressed that there will come a day when the town will need a new cemetery. This subject will be held over until all members are present.

Updates on Tree Work

Mr. McCue reported that Carl Brodeur had been in touch to say that the tree work could not be carried out until July. It was believed that this was because of the rainy spring season.

Assonet Burying Ground

Mr. McCue discussed the problem of too many benches being added to the cemetery without permission. This had been noticed for a while but brought up again recently by Mr. Brown. All agreed that benches serve a valuable purpose, but that benches placed in the wrong locations or made with inferior materials could become a problem. Mr. Desmarais, though not present, had sent along the suggestion that small signs be

made that could be put on a lot to inform the proprietor that a bench or other decoration was not approved and should be removed within 30 or 60 days, and after that time the object(s) could be removed. It was agreed to consider this. Signs like this would avoid the problems Fall River had where the city removed decorations without warning and suffered the wrath of public opinion.

Along the same lines, Mr. Brown had inquired about banning artificial flowers and like materials from the cemetery, under a banner of going "green". Mr. McCue believed the current published rules allow artificial flowers during the winter months, from approximately Halloween to April Fool's Day. This will be reviewed and discussed further. It was noted that published rules must be amended at town meetings.

Mr. McCue reported that Mr. Desmarais had put up the flag pole on May 21st, and it looks smart.

No further contact has been received from the Bristol County Sheriff regarding inmates cleaning headstones. No progress had been made on the firebreak or fence, either.

Updates on Old Business / Goats

The goats and their sheep companions arrived at the Assonet Inn on June 1st to start their work in the Nichols Cemetery; however, it was determined by the handlers that there was lily of the valley in the cemetery which would cause harm to the goats. Under the direction of Mr. Desmarais, the goats and sheep were rerouted to the Robinson Burying Ground, where they faced the same flowery nemesis. Not to be defeated, Mr. Desmarais and the handlers spirited the goats and sheep away to the Old Town Well, where they have been grazing comfortably.

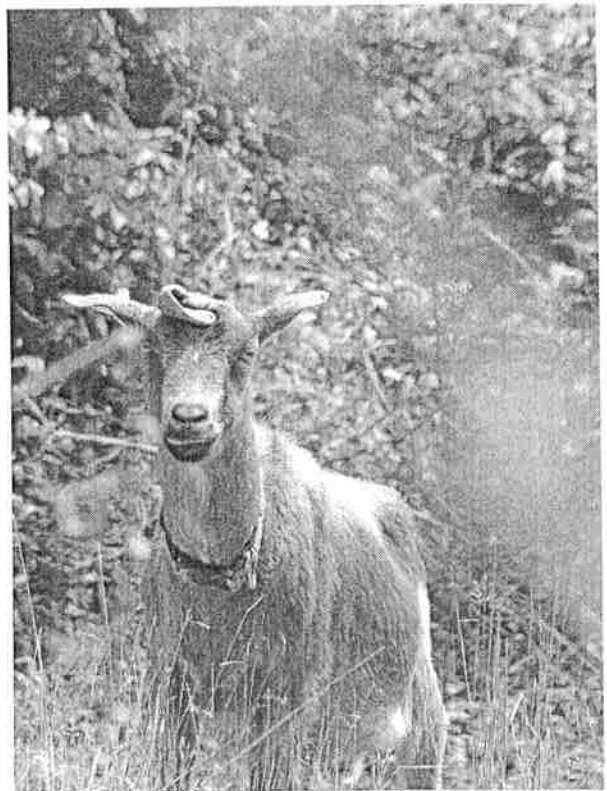
Any Other Business Properly Before the Commission

There are serious financial concerns for the future of the Evans Cemetery. Mr. McCue is attempting to contact one of the trustees to discuss their finances and find out what they would like to do.

Also discussed were the flags for Memorial Day. It was agreed to aim for Sunday, May 21st at 11:00 to take care of the Assonet Burying Ground and several other cemeteries.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, seconded by Mrs. Levesque, to adjourn at 4:55 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.



Goat on duty at the Old Town Well.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Michael T. McCue, Chairman

Policy on Payment Plans

June 12, 2017

Understanding that families can rapidly incur significant expenses at a very difficult time, the Cemetery Commission offers payment plans to help spread out the costs associated with purchasing cemetery lots. In this way, a family that desires to have a larger family lot for several people can still do so without having to put out all sorts of money all at once.

Payment plans work as follows:

- ◆ A deposit of \$50.00 is required for each lot (grave) to be held.
- ◆ After a lot is held, a minimum payment of \$25.00 should be made monthly. If four or more lots are held, \$50.00 should be paid monthly.
- ◆ If no payments are made for six months, and no contact has been made by the purchaser to explain the reasons, the lot(s) will be released and no refund will be given. The lot(s) will then be made available for others at the full price as if no payments had been made.
- ◆ After all lots are paid off, an additional \$10.00 is required for the recording fee.
- ◆ Regardless of the above, a grave must be paid **in full** before it can be opened.