

Freetown Cemetery Commission
Minutes of the Tuesday, January 2, 2018 Meeting
Town Hall — Assonet, Mass.

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J. Brown

Present: Adrienne Levesque and Mike McCue.

Absent: Keven Desmarais.

Call to order: Mike McCue called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

Receipt of Minutes / Superintendent's Report

Minutes of October 2, 2017, were received. The Superintendent's Reports for October, November, and December, including bills paid since the previous meeting, were also received.

Discussion on Perpetual Care Investments

Mr. McCue reported that the Treasurer spoke with representatives from Rockland Trust and secured a more favorable interest rate.

Updates on Tree Work

Mr. McCue reported that much of the tree work was completed. One tree at Mother's Brook was not removed because the tree workers felt it was unsafe for them to tackle.

Assonet Burying Ground

The following items were discussed under this topic:

- Update on cleaning gravestones – Before-and-after photographs were reviewed of the headstone cleaning work. All felt this work had been done well. A letter thanking the House of Correction will be sent.
- Update on firebreak on the east property line and work north of Section 8: Mr. McCue reported that the firebreak work was on hold until the weather warms. The work north of Section 8 progressed well through the autumn, with Tom Copeland's crew cleaning out much of the undergrowth and Heath Chace stumping the area.
- Discussion on fencing along south property line: The first several hundred feet of the fence, which was the worst-damaged, was removed by the Highway Department and will not be replaced.

Updates on Old Business or New Business

It was acknowledged that work will resume in the Nichols Cemetery when burning season reopens later this month.

Brian Dunning was able to reach Craig Cabral and will work toward restoring the Payne's Cove Cemetery in 2018.

Discussion and Vote on FY19 Budget

Mr. McCue presented a breakdown of the proposed FY19 budget. The budget as proposed would be \$2,000 higher than FY18, which was level from FY17, representing the first increase since 2016. It was explained that all expected increases were absorbed by reducing the mapping budget line, and that this \$2,000 increase represents a temporary cost-sharing with the Evans Cemetery.

The Evans Cemetery has enough funds remaining for about half a year's worth of mowing and its trustees are weighing their options and trying to determine how to care for the cemetery long-term. The Cemetery Commission would become responsible for (at minimum) the veterans' graves if the trustees were to run out

of money, and the Town has helped the Morton Cemetery for several years and the Chace Cemetery one year when those cemeteries had financial problems. Commissioners discussed the various options the Evans Cemetery has for raising revenue or alleviating their responsibilities. All felt that helping the Evans Cemetery for one year was not unreasonable. A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque, seconded by Mr. McCue, to put forward the budget with the increase reflecting aid to the Evans Cemetery. The motion carried unanimously.

Any Other Business Properly Before the Board

None.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque, seconded by Mr. McCue, to adjourn the meeting at 4:31 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: Michael T. McCue, Chairman