

Freetown Cemetery Commission
Minutes of the Monday, June 11, 2018 Meeting
Town Hall — Assonet, Mass.

2018 OCT -2 PM 12: 07

Present: Adrienne Levesque and Mike McCue.

Absent: Keven Desmarais.

Call to order: Mike McCue called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

Reorganization, Part II

Mr. McCue noted that although he could not be present, Mr. Desmarais had stated he did not wish to be Superintendent or the single-signature designee for the bills, and so Mr. McCue asked if Mrs. Levesque was interested in either position. Mrs. Levesque was not interested, either. On consensus, Mr. McCue will continue in both capacities. As for Assistant Superintendent, consensus was that Richard Brown stay on for another year. All appointment slips were signed.

Receipt of Minutes / Superintendent's Report

Minutes of April 23, 2018, were received. The Superintendent's Reports for April and May, including bills paid since the previous meeting, were also received.

Updates from Annual Town Meeting

Mr. McCue reported that funding for both the Mother's Brook Cemetery tree removal project and the new lawnmower passed with no questions or concerns. The proposed budget for the fiscal year 2019 also passed with no comments or concerns.

Discussion on Land

This item was passed over until all could be present.

Assonet Burying Ground

Mr. McCue reported on Mr. Brown's suggestion to straighten the stones that were tilted or crooked. All agreed this should be done, but will require cooperation from the Highway Department to make it possible. It was noted that one stone, for Eddy in Section 2 or Section 3, was laid down and in need of a new base to right it.

Discussion was held on the installation of gravestones in the Veterans Section. Mr. McCue noted that when similar stones were installed in other parts of the cemetery, such as for Timm Hadley, they had been cemented in place, whereas in the Veterans Section the three stones currently in place are not cemented. One stone has begun to tilt slightly, and there is a concern that if the stones are not cemented, they will all eventually tilt. Possible solutions noted were to purchase cement and ask the Highway Department to install all stones in this section in the future, or to require that the stones be cemented and pay for it from cemetery funds. The latter option was believed to cost about \$100 per stone, which at 137 lots would eventually cost \$13,700 (it was also noted that if this practice had started in 2012, the cost would have been \$300 over six years). A final decision will be made in the fall when all are present.

Discussion was also held securing some sort of sign for the Veterans Section. Mr. McCue showed photographs of two possible stones to be used for signs, both currently offered by Albanese Monuments in Westport. One was round with somewhat scalloped edges and retailed for approximately \$2800 including lettering. The other was more rectangular with a curved top and columns carved into the sides and retailed for approximately \$6200 with lettering included. Mrs. Levesque expressed a preference for the rounded stone regardless of price; Mr. McCue had no preference as to either design. After further discussion, it was agreed to investigate having "ASSONET BURYING GROUND" carved around the outer rounded edge and "VETERANS CEMETERY / EST. 2012" carved in the center. With regard to how to pay for the sign, it was agreed to pursue fundraising to pay for the sign so as not to burden the taxpayers or the cemetery funds. Mrs. Levesque suggested placing

bricks with the names or sentiments of donors, similar to the flag pole area at the Bullock Road fire station. Firm details will be provided at the next meeting.

Updated on Old Business or New Business

The following items were taken up under this heading:

- ♦ Mr. McCue reported that the Guilford Evans Burial Ground at Crystal Springs School was not mowed prior to Memorial Day weekend when flags were put out. Mr. Desmarais will be asked to contact the school as he has a connection with their grounds crew.
- ♦ Discussion was revisited on repairing or re-setting headstones in cemeteries that have been cleaned up. An Eagle Scout candidate from Boy Scout Troop 64 (East Freetown – VFW) has volunteered to try and right some of the stones at the Plummer Burial Ground, and intends to do so in June. Commissioners will be notified of the dates and times he plans to work there so that any who are interested may visit.
- ♦ Discussion was held on the possibility of hiring on a part-time, seasonal laborer in FY 2020. One option would be to look for a worker through the senior tax work-off program, another would be to see if a Highway Department worker retiring in June 2019 would be interested in working a day or two a week after he retires. The first option would be cost-negative, and the second option (whether offered to the current employee or advertised) would need to be discussed with the Personnel Board. This will be revisited in the fall with an aim toward settling it before the FY 2020 budgets are prepared.
- ♦ Discussion on adjusting lot prices was passed over as this item was at Mr. Desmarais' request.
- ♦ All other items under this heading were passed over for lack of new information.


Any Other Business Properly Before the Board

None.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque, seconded by Mr. McCue, to adjourn at 4:56 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: 
Michael T. McCue, Chairman