

Freetown Cemetery Commission
Minutes of the Monday, January 3, 2019 Meeting
Town Hall — Assonet, Mass.

RECEIVED
FREETOWN TOWN CLERK
2019 APR 30 AM 11:30
J. Brown

Present: Keven Desmarais, Adrienne Levesque, and Mike McCue.

Absent: None.

Call to order: Mike McCue called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Receipt of Minutes / Superintendent's Report

Minutes of December 3, 2018, were received. The Superintendent's Report for December, including bills paid since the previous meeting, were also received.

Updates on Old Business or New Business

Mr. McCue reported that the Assonet Boy Scouts worked on the Merrick Cemetery for three weekends and finished the majority of the area. Their work had been interrupted by Christmas and New Year's. Tom Copeland will be asked to evaluate the cemetery. Consensus was to have Mr. Desmarais approach Stop & Shop to either maintain the cemetery or commit to donating to pay for future maintenance.

Discussion then turned to the subject of seasonal help. Mr. McCue provided three scenarios:

- ♦ One worker for fifteen hours per week for the mowing season (Patriots Day to Veterans Day), paid at state minimum wage (\$12.00 in 2019, \$12.75 in 2020) would cost approximately \$5,396.25.
- ♦ One worker for twenty hours per week for an abbreviated season (Memorial Day to Columbus Day) paid at state minimum wage would cost approximately \$4,926.00.
- ♦ Two workers for twenty hours per week for an abbreviated season (Memorial Day to Columbus Day) paid at state minimum wage would cost approximately \$9,852.00.

Mr. Desmarais stated that the Conservation Commission was interested in moving forward with seasonal help, also, and would only need that help from Memorial Day to Labor Day or Columbus Day. He envisioned requesting funding for two workers paid at state minimum wage for ten hours per week for the Conservation Commission. He specified two workers because one will inevitably want or need time off for vacation. He felt this same arrangement would work for the Cemetery Commission, two at twenty hours for the abbreviated season.

Mr. McCue stated that the Board of Health was also interested, but required far fewer hours per week. Mr. Desmarais suggested that an eventual compromise might be that the same workers would be shared among departments. Mrs. Levesque questioned if the workers are shared, would the Cemetery Commission be shortchanged at some point. Mr. Desmarais felt that if it worked out that the workers were assigned to multiple departments, the department heads would need to agree to a schedule, with understandable flexibility.

A motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, seconded by Mrs. Levesque, to budget \$10,000.00 with the intent of hiring two workers for twenty hours per week. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McCue also noted he would be requesting a brush mower as a capital expense. The brush mower is requested most years and typically not funded. Mr. Desmarais noted that Conservation Commission may be able to make use of it for trail maintenance, also.

Any Other Business Properly Before the Board

Mr. McCue reported that the trees at the Mother's Brook Cemetery were felled earlier in the day.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque, seconded by Mr. Desmarais, to adjourn at 4:32 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Michael T. McCue, Chairman