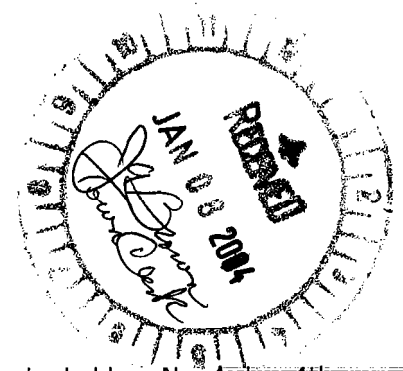


Freetown Cemetery Commission
Minutes of the Tuesday, October 1, 2013 Meeting
Town Hall, 3 North Main Street, Assonet, Mass.



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

Call to order: Chairman Mike McCue called the meeting to order at 6:35p.

Special Town Meeting

This meeting was called to discuss warrant articles for the Special Town Meeting to be held on November 4th. Three articles were considered for this meeting:

1. **\$2,000.00 to be transferred from the Sale of Lots Account** to the Cemetery Commission budget to provide funding for mapping, etc. Mr. McCue explained that this article was submitted annually for \$5,000.00, that it had not been submitted in the spring as it was not foreseen as needed, but that the mapping projects are now progressing and more money should be allocated just in case.
2. **\$675.00 to be allocated for the Morton Cemetery.** The Morton Cemetery perpetual care fund has been dwindling for some time. Mr. McCue explained that Tom Copeland is not interested in giving up the work, and Chuck Macomber is not particularly interested in taking it on through the Highway Department. Mr. Copeland receives \$225.00 per mowing, so \$675.00 would allow for three mowings in the spring.

Mr. Desmarais asked about the ownership of the cemetery. Mr. McCue stated that the cemetery is owned by Frederick Peirce of Rhode Island. Dr. Peirce has previously communicated that the only persons allowed to be buried in the cemetery at this time are himself and his wife, their daughter and son-in-law, and their grandchildren. Mr. Desmarais asked if the perpetual care subject had been raised in prior communication. Mr. McCue said it had not, as at the time maintenance was costing \$200.00 per year and there was no immediate issue. Mr. Desmarais asked about soliciting donations from Dr. Peirce and any other relatives that could be located. Mrs. Levesque agreed. All acknowledged that it would not solve the immediate issue.

Mr. Desmarais asked about the town's liability for not mowing the cemetery. Mr. McCue said when the perpetual care funds are exhausted, if the Highway Department did not do the work and this article were not funded, the town would default to being responsible for the veterans' graves but not the rest of the cemetery. All agreed that past practice has been to tend the whole of cemeteries and not simply individual graves. The only person other than Dr. Peirce and the several caretakers who have communicated with the town regarding this cemetery was a woman from Middleborough with family buried there.

Consensus was to pursue the article and donations, acknowledging that the short-term solution was to fund FY14.

Discussion was held briefly on other cemeteries facing this issue. Mr. McCue noted the Evans Cemetery is only a few years away from this problem, and stated that all cemetery caretaking work for the year commencing July 1, 2014, would be bid out in the spring of 2014. Discussion is also being held with the House of Correction in Dartmouth to determine where inmate work crews could be of help.

3. **Up to \$2,200.00 for a brush mower.** Mr. McCue stated that a DR brush mower was shown for \$1,899.99 plus \$199.99 for shipping if purchased directly from DR. Country Hardware in Acushnet is a dealer for DR, but was closed Monday and Tuesday when called for prices. Potentially, it could be less expensive to purchase from the Acushnet firm. Discussion was held on the usefulness and need

for this machine. It was noted that from July 1st to September 30th, \$775.00 had been spent contracting out work that could have been accomplished with this machine. Mr. Desmarais asked if the Highway Department would be using the machine. Mr. McCue stated that Mr. Macomber's response was possibly, but as they have never had one before, it would be a trial-and-error determination. Mr. Desmarais preferred to see the article submitted by both departments. Mr. McCue and Mrs. Levesque agreed, and Mr. Desmarais was designated to contact Mr. Macomber on this matter.

~~A motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, seconded by Mrs. Levesque, to submit all three articles. The motion carried unanimously.~~

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 22nd at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, seconded by Mrs. Levesque, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:55p.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Michael T. McCue, Chairman