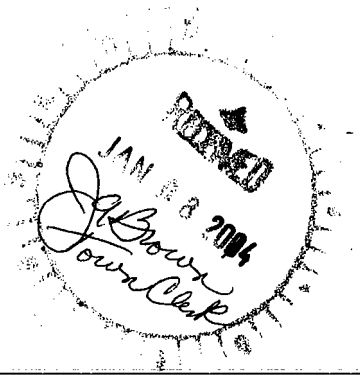


**Freetown Cemetery Commission**  
Minutes of the Thursday, October 31, 2013 Meeting  
Town Hall, 3 North Main Street, Assonet, Mass.



**Present:** Keven Desmarais and Mike McCue.

**Absent:** Adrienne Levesque

**Call to order:** Chairman Mike McCue called the meeting to order at 6:30p.

---

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of June 5, 2013, were received. A motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, seconded by Mr. McCue, to approve the minutes as received. The motion carried unanimously.

**Superintendent's Report**

The July, August, September, and October reports were received.

**Assonet Burying Ground**

The headstones near the shed were reported to have been moved during site work in Section 8, but they have not yet been placed in their correct locations. John Bernardo from the Highway Department removed stumps and other debris remaining on the line between Section 8 and the fireworks field. A family has expressed an interest in purchasing single lots to the north of Section 8, beginning at the northwest corner of Lot 9 and moving eastward. Mr. McCue stated there was enough area to allow a row of single graves on the north edge of Section 8. He will work out an appropriate numbering scheme when the time comes.

Students from Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School were expected to be in the cemetery the morning of November 6th to begin their work on repairing the fenced lots. The students will first be taking measurements and then developing an estimate. The lots will be estimated individually to allow work to progress as the budget allows.

Mr. McCue reported meeting with the Tree Warden, Maurice DeMoranville, to discuss tree removal. Mr. DeMoranville had requested additional funding through the Special Town Meeting, but the Selectmen declined to place his article on the Warrant. It was unknown whether he would still take the trees down or not as this was to be paid for through his department.

Discussion was also held on fencing certain areas of the cemetery. Mr. McCue believed a fence of some sort should be installed north of Section 8 along the stone wall, and also along the main road between the Bragg Graves and Section 22. Mr. Desmarais questioned the need for the fence near the Bragg Graves, and Mr. McCue stated there have been problems with cars driving up on the grass between Section 22 and the so-called Section 23. Mr. Desmarais asked if there was any other areas needing fencing, and Mr. McCue stated not at this cemetery, but at the cemetery at Quaker Hill (American Legion/South School). Mr. Desmarais suggested contacting South East Fence for a price for materials only.

No update was available on the flag pole project, section signs, composting areas, or trash barrels.

**Restoration Projects**

No new progress was reported for the Edminster, Michael Hathaway, and Nichols cemeteries. Mr. McCue reported that Linwood & Carol Bailey had tended to the two cemeteries on Gurney Road, the James Emerson Ashley Family Cemetery and Nathan Spooner Family Cemetery. Mr. Bailey may solicit a donation of pipe to repair the fence at Spooner.

Discussion then opened on the Crapo Cemetery. Mrs. Bailey and Jeffrey King of Dartmouth have both expressed an interest in the Crapo Cemetery, which is on land that was formerly part of Mrs. Bailey's family's

farm (the LaFountain farm) and is the resting place of several of Mr. King's ancestors and extended-family ancestors. Mr. Desmarais asked what involvement the Cemetery Commission had in this process. Mr. McCue responded that the cemetery has several Revolutionary War and War of 1812 veterans, triggering the Town's responsibility under Chapter 115. Dan LeBlanc was notified and visited the property. If and when the property is cleaned up, several government markers will be requested where the headstones are damaged or illegible.

Mr. McCue reported that Mrs. Bailey asked that the Commission approach the property owner to secure permission for the cleanup and that he agreed to try as he and the property owner have mutual friends. Mr. Desmarais asked if this was normal procedure, and Mr. McCue stated that normal procedure is to direct the volunteer(s) to contact the property owner directly when there is an owner. Mr. Desmarais felt that Mr. McCue's offer to try and arrange for permission was commendable but that in the future the Commission should maintain its position that volunteers should coordinate directly with the property owners where owners exist. Some form of policy or written statement will be considered to keep everyone informed of the process in the future.

#### **Updates on Business Pending from Previous Meetings**

These items were passed over: Sign for East Freetown Cemetery, review work done by Crystal Springs School at Guilford Evans Burial Ground, financial status of Morton Cemetery, routine maintenance of Tisdale Burying Ground, and repairs of headstones and stone walls at Winslow Cemetery.

#### **New Business**

These items were passed over: Possibility of using inmate labor, status of Capt. Job Terry and Robinson cemeteries, and discussions on ground-penetrating radar, planning for a new cemetery, future use or replacement of the shed, current status of perpetual care, and cemeteries at the Stop & Shop warehouse.

#### **Next Meeting**

Mr. Desmarais requested a day of site visits the day after Thanksgiving. If this date is agreeable with Mrs. Levesque, it will be set up.

#### **Meeting Adjourned**

The meeting adjourned without vote at 8:45p.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Michael T. McCue, Chairman