

Freetown Cemetery Commission
Minutes of the Monday, November 4, 2019 Meeting
Town Hall — Assonet, Mass.

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Present: Keven Desmarais and Mike McCue.

Absent: Adrienne Levesque.

Call to order: Mike McCue called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

Mowing Quotes, FY21 thru FY23

Two sets of quotes were received, from Heath Chace and T.E.C. Landscaping (Tom Copeland). Mr. Copeland was present for the opening. Mr. McCue read the quotes aloud. Following brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, seconded by Mr. McCue, to accept the lowest prices, with the stipulation that Evans Cemetery is for one year only since it is a change in assignment. The motion carried unanimously.

Receipt of Minutes / Superintendent's Report

Minutes of October 8, 2019, were received. The Superintendent's Report for October, including bills paid since the previous meeting, was also received.

Review and Adopt Pay Scale for Sexton Position

Mr. McCue presented a potential pay scale for the Sexton position, which would allow for periodic raises based on longevity as with other of the town's employees. Mr. Desmarais asked to clarify how this was different from the existing system, and Mr. McCue responded that the position is currently set to match minimum wage. It was acknowledged that while this was a benefit to the current sexton, it could be a detriment with any future hires if minimum wage was not scheduled for annual adjustments as it is currently. A motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, seconded by Mr. McCue, to adopt the following pay scale and request ratification from the Personnel Board:

| Sexton Pay Scale | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| At Hire | Minimum Wage |
| 1st Anniversary | Min. Wage + \$0.75 |
| 2nd Anniversary | Min. Wage + \$1.50 |
| 3rd Anniversary | Min. Wage + \$2.25 |
| 4th Anniversary | Min. Wage + \$3.00 |
| 5th & Subsq. Anniv. | Min. Wage + \$3.75 |

The motion carried unanimously.

Continued Discussion of Goals

Barring any additions by Mrs. Levesque at the next meeting, goals for 2020 appear to be set at working on repairing headstones, and repairing the stone wall in front of the Dean Family Cemetery.

Designation of Assignments

Mr. Desmarais will review the cemeteries in East Freetown as needed, and Mr. McCue and Mrs. Levesque will split Assonet. Mrs. Levesque will also take Mother's Brook in Fall River.

Under the same heading, Mr. McCue noted that Mrs. Levesque reported a tree had fallen at Mother's Brook during the late October windstorms. The tree damaged the corner of a footstone for Capt. Constant Church (d. 1726/7). This was a tree Carl Brodeur had previously assessed as too rotted and dangerous to remove.

Assonet Burying Ground

No items were taken up under this heading.

Updates on Old Business or New Business

Mr. McCue reported visiting the Merrick (Stop & Shop), Terry (Stop & Shop), and Nichols (Assonet Inn) cemeteries with Mr. Copeland. Mr. Copeland stated he did not believe an herbicide would work in the Merrick and Terry cemeteries presently, as the growth is beyond what an herbicide could easily handle. He offered prices for cleaning them up. Mr. Desmarais will discuss the prices with Stop & Shop.

Other Business

None.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, seconded by Mr. McCue, to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Michael T. McCue, Chairman