

Freetown Cemetery Commission
Minutes of the Tuesday, January 11, 2011 Meeting
Town Hall, 3 North Main Street, Assonet, Mass.

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

Guests: Barbara DeMoranville.

Call to order: Chairman Mike McCue called the meeting to order at 6:11p.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of December 1st were received. A motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, duly seconded by Mrs. Levesque, to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

A letter was signed for Frank Wing acknowledging his donation of the Haskins Cemetery and the cost of recording the deeds and other pertinent documents at the Registry of Deeds in Fall River.

Assonet Burying Ground

A brief discussion was held regarding the mowing agreement for 2011. No modifications have been made to the agreement at this time, though it was acknowledged that whether or not funds are available will depend on the outcome of the annual town meeting.

Discussion was then held on the vandalism repairs and status of insurance coverage for the cemetery. Mr. McCue reported that South East Fence Co. would be repairing the chain link fence separating the cemetery property from the homes along Freeman's Circle. He was unsure whether the repairs would be undertaken in the winter or spring. The same firm was asked to provide a quote for installation of 1,007 feet of new fence to be used as an estimation of value for the town's insurance company, and this information was forwarded to Elsie Soares in the selectmen's office.

Mr. McCue presented his copy of the 1993 Assonet Burying Ground layout, and pointed out the changes that had been made over the last eighteen years. All agreed the map could stand to be updated, and an effort will be made to accomplish this in 2011.

East Freetown Cemetery

Mrs. DeMoranville was present to discuss the East Freetown Cemetery, as well as the renaming of Hog Lane to Pocasset Lane. She was able to provide a great deal of information about some of the people who were buried in this cemetery in the 1930s and later, most of whom are in unmarked paupers' graves.

Mr. McCue provided a copy of the layout map prepared by Dave Cass during the summer. He showed Mrs. DeMoranville the location where it was planned to have the Hog Lane sign erected in the spring, which was at the southern extreme of the cemetery, where the dirt road forks heading toward John Mello's property. She suggested that it would be better to have the sign erected where the path from the DeMoranville farm crosses Pocasset Lane and continues to Dennis DeMoranville, Jr.'s land south of Harris Chace's farm, since that was the laneway leading to the old piggery. Neither he, Mrs. Levesque, nor Mr. Desmarais had any objection to this.

In the aerial image appearing as Figure 1 on the next page the new Hog Lane would be the dirt road east of the vehicle parked within the cemetery. The top of the image is east, and the left side of the image is north.



Figure 1: Aerial Photo of East Freetown Cemetery.

Mrs. DeMoranville also expressed the preference of some members of her family that the Pocasset Lane name be dropped in favor of "Irene Lane" or a similar name including the name Irene. This was because one of her sons identified the fabled "woman with twenty dogs" buried at the cherry trees (north of vehicle in cemetery in Figure 1 above) as a woman named Irene who came from Vermont and lived with Leon Pittsley. According to the story, Irene had been walking on Pocasset Lane from her home to the home of one of the DeMoranvilles when she died, apparently of a heart attack. It was said that Irene's affairs and estate were handled by Doris DeMoranville (later Doris Mastera). Unfortunately, Irene's last name was unknown.

Mr. Desmarais asked Mr. McCue if he had found any Irene's listed as buried in the cemetery. Mr. McCue said he searched the town's death records from 1914 to 1979 and was unable to find an entry. Mr. Desmarais asked Mrs. DeMoranville if the family would agree to have the cross-lane of the cemetery nearest to Irene's grave (which would now be the continuation of the new Hog Lane east toward the DeMoranville farm) named for Irene instead. She stated that the preference for the main laneway was very strong, but that she would bring the idea back to her family. Mr. Desmarais felt that if the main laneway was to be named for Irene, it would be very important to determine Irene's last name so her full name could be used.

Mrs. DeMoranville asked about several names she said were buried in the cemetery. She identified an area surrounded by posts as being a Pina family plot. Mr. McCue said although he did find records of a few people named Pina being buried in the cemetery, the only area marked with posts was the area where Irene and her dogs are supposed to be buried. Mrs. DeMoranville stated that once the snows from the storms of Christmas weekend and this evening had melted away, she could walk the cemetery with the commissioners and members of her family to better identify the areas they know or believe already have burials. It was also noted that Wally DeMoranville, who now has charge of this cemetery, is one of Mrs. DeMoranville's sons.

Guilford Evans Burial Ground

A question was received regarding the ownership of this cemetery, which is off Narrows Road but is not the Evans Cemetery typically dealt with. The usual Evans Cemetery, historically referred to as the Philip Evans Burial Ground, is atop a hill on the west side of Narrows Road. The Guilford Evans Burial Ground is near the salt marshes on the east side of Narrows Road, also nearby to Independence Harbor and roughly across Payne's Cove from the Payne's Cove Cemetery. Mr. McCue indicated that the cemetery was owned by the Crystal Springs School, but that the family retained visitation and maintenance rights.

Nichols Cemetery

Mr. McCue reported being in contact with the Nichols family once again. They continue to show interest in having the Nichols Cemetery cleaned up and restored, and he will continue to work with them through the spring on answering questions and making any arrangements. One idea discussed was to see if the town would match a donation toward the restoration.

Plummer Burial Ground

It was noted that Roger Guimond has begun taking down trees at this cemetery.

Terry-Davenport Cemetery

A brief discussion was held on the vandalism to the Terry-Davenport Cemetery. This will be repaired as soon as the weather permits. Any further discussion will be held off until Mrs. Levesque has had an opportunity to see the damage done.

Perpetual Care Letter

Due to the resignation of the Town Accountant, this matter was placed on hold until later in January.

Budget for FY12

Mr. McCue presented a revised budget for FY12 which was \$2,001 less than the budget he presented in December, for a total of \$19,122. The lines changed between December and January were explained as follows:

- **Mother's Brook Cemetery** was reduced from \$2,000 to \$1,000. Mr. Desmarais questioned why there was a reduction. Mr. McCue stated he felt \$1,000 might be a better starting place since this was the first year for the cemetery. Mr. Desmarais felt that the amount should stay at \$2,000 until we see how much it will cost.
- **Map Maintenance** was reduced to from \$1,000 to \$0. Since the cost of producing a new map (versus an updated map) was unknown at this time, it was felt better to reduce this to \$0 and submit a warrant article when an actual price was known.
- **Printing and Postage** was reduced from \$23 to \$22 since postage rates did not increase.

Neither Mr. Desmarais nor Mrs. Levesque expressed any objection to the budget outside the Mother's Brook line. This line will be revisited after the snows have melted and the DeMoranvilles have had an opportunity to look it over and give a price.

Next Meeting

No further meetings were scheduled.

Meeting Adjourned

Upon motion of Mrs. Levesque, duly seconded by Mr. Desmarais, the commission voted to adjourn at 7:20p. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Michael T. McCue, Chairman