

Freetown Cemetery Commission
Minutes of the Monday, April 30, 2012 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 6:35p.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of November 7, 2011, January 19, 2012, and February 27, 2012, were received. A motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, seconded by Mr. McCue, to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Reorganization

This item was passed over until the full board could be present.

Assonet Burying Ground

Mr. McCue noted the Cemetery Commission votes annually to allow the Independence Day fireworks to be fired from the field behind the shack at the cemetery. A motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, seconded by Mr. McCue, to allow the fireworks to proceed as normal. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Desmarais will pursue purchasing a flag pole, as the one previously offered for donation is now in a pattern of irregular use. Mr. McCue asked for an estimate, and Mr. Desmarais felt the cost could be kept below \$400.00. Discussion of the veterans' memorial was passed over until Mrs. Levesque could be present.

Mr. Desmarais will pursue making section signs to mark the sections in the cemetery. Mr. McCue noted the work Tom Daley has done so far with mapping, particularly in Section 35 and the new Section 36. He also reported the perimeter deed had been signed and recorded.

Discussion was held on the wooden shed north of Section 13. The shed is in very poor condition, and has reached a point where it should be razed or replaced. Mr. Desmarais asked what the shed was used for, and Mr. McCue stated the shed held mostly junk. He noted one wheelbarrow, some wooden planks, and a few old sheets of plywood. The planks have not been used in some time, the plywood was used only once or twice in a pinch, and the wheelbarrow does not appear to have been touched in years. Mr. Desmarais asked if the shed would be considered historical. Mr. McCue stated it was built approximately 110 years ago. Mr. Desmarais stated he would not be in favor of storing anything of value there, even if it was repaired or replaced. Mr. McCue stated it should then be razed, if there would be no use for a repaired building. Mr. Desmarais stated he would contact the Building Inspector to view the building, and would relay his findings to the Historical Commission to seek their opinion. As the Cemetery Commission has no apparent use for the building, it would be left to another group to pay for repairs if that was deemed necessary.

Discussion was also held on the Wyatt Mausoleum. Several roof tiles have come loose or fallen off, and some areas of the brickwork need pointing. Mr. Desmarais asked if money was available, and Mr. McCue responded there was likely not enough to complete the work. If the structure becomes deficient, it could become a public health issue. It is unknown whether any family remains in the area. No decisions were reached.

Braley's Cemetery (East) & (West)

Discussion was held again on replacing the fence along the railroad tracks. No further action was taken at this time, as the Highway Surveyor has been asked to look at what's left. Brief discussion was also held on the subject of perpetual care. Mr. Desmarais raised possible concerns over ownership of lots and the difficulty in enforcing perpetual care contributions.

East Freetown Cemetery

Mr. Desmarais will work with the Highway Department to obtain a boulder for use as a sign, and Mr. McCue will mark the location when the project progresses.

Wally DeMoranville has requested that the rate for this cemetery increase to \$1,200.00 per year from its present \$1,000.00 per year. Mr. McCue stated this was in keeping with prior payments during better financial times. No objections were raised.

Edminster Cemetery

It was noted that Bryant Hill Farms has coordinated restoration and repair work in this cemetery, with Joe Gouveia making good progress to date.

Haskins/Prout Graves

It was acknowledged that at a meeting earlier in the day with the Berkley Historical Commission for the purpose of viewing the cemetery, Cape Cod Aggregates has offered to pay for the clearing and restoration of this small plot located off Bryant Street. Arrangements will be made to get this project underway.

Morton Cemetery

Mr. McCue reported that perpetual care funds are rapidly diminishing. Without changes in the current arrangements, the cemetery will be mowed four times in 2012, four times in 2013, and three times in 2014 before it will be out of funds.

Mother's Brook Cemetery

Discussion was held on possible future expansion. It was decided on consensus to make no changes to the property at this time.

Nichols Cemetery

Mr. McCue reported visiting Jack Conway at home. Mr. Conway acknowledged receiving the previous communication, but was unable to discuss the project at that time. No further word has been received. Mr. Desmarais suggested contacting him again, noting that work is otherwise on track to begin possibly in July.

Plummer Burial Ground

Mr. McCue reported that Heath Chace would be chipping the brush and branches in the coming winter. Richard Brown consented to have Mr. Chace cross his field with equipment, but only once the ground has hardened.

Rounsevell Cemetery & Chace Cemetery

Letters were sent to the Rounsevell and Chace cemeteries from the Town Administrator informing them that future bills must be made out to the Town of Freetown and signed by the Cemetery Commission in order to be paid. This was done to ensure compliance with state laws affecting the Accountant's and Treasurer's offices.

Tisdale Burying Ground

Work on this cemetery will hopefully begin sometime in May or June, with completion planned for the autumn months.

Winslow Cemetery

The check from the Ruby W. Linn Trust was received earlier in the day and left with the Treasurer for processing. Mr. McCue outlined three immediate uses for the expendable funds, which were to repair headstones, to repair the stone walls, and to purchase a sign for the cemetery. He reported Albanese Monuments was working on a repair estimate for the headstones. Jay Fournier has offered to repair the wall, either for free if help can be rounded up or for a small charge if not. Mr. Desmarais will contact a sign company known to work in the area to see about an estimate for a sign.

Veterans' Cemetery Grant Program

Previous discussions were reviewed, with no new information discussed.

Next Meeting

No further meetings were scheduled.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting adjourned without vote at 7:45p.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Michael T. McCue, Chairman