

Freetown Cemetery Commission
Minutes of the Monday, July 9, 2012 Meeting
Town Hall, 3 North Main Street, Assonet, Mass.

Present: Keven Desmarais and Mike McCue.

Absent: Adrienne Levesque.

Guests: Bruce Wilbur.

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of June 18th were not available.

Bills Paid

A motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, seconded by Mr. McCue, to pay bills as follows: Foster's Hardware, \$89.84 (FY12) (paint and materials for shed, Assonet Burying Ground); Anna DeMoranville, \$725.00 (FY13) (mowing Mother's Brook, Richmond, and Winslow cemeteries). The motion was carried unanimously.

Assonet Burying Ground

It was acknowledged that the flag pole had been received. Also acknowledged was receipt of the new map for sections 35 and 36, including veterans' graves, from Tom Daley. Final approval of the plan, placement of the flag pole, and further discussion on the veterans area were held over until Mrs. Levesque could be present.

Mr. Desmarais reported that he spoke with the Building Inspector, Paul Bourgeois, about the status of painting the shed. Mr. Bourgeois stated the shed would be painted at some time during the summer. Mr. Desmarais is also still finalizing plans and materials for section signs.

Braley's Cemetery (East) & (West)

Mr. McCue reported meeting with Heath Chace during installation of the fence at Braley's (East), and that the fence has been installed and is serving its purpose. Both cemeteries are in better shape following spring clean-ups, and Mr. Chace will be working on his price request for routine maintenance.

Chace Cemetery

Officers of the Chace Cemetery Association, Inc., had been invited to attend this meeting to discuss any questions or concerns they might have regarding the letter mailed June 19th requesting repayment of their deficit. Bruce Wilbur was present as an interested party, his family owning lots in the Chace Cemetery. However, no officers of the cemetery association were present.

Mr. Wilbur addressed the commission with his concerns over the present state of the Chace Cemetery, both from a maintenance standpoint and an administrative standpoint. All parties agreed that the Cemetery Commission cannot involve itself in the administrative aspects of the cemetery. Mr. Wilbur provided a copy of information from the Secretary of the Commonwealth regarding the status of the Chace Cemetery Association as a Massachusetts corporation, which showed no officers listed. Mr. McCue stated he had researched the Association's standing with the IRS and found their 501(c)3 designation had been revoked for failing to file reports. The question was raised whether "Chace Cemetery Association" is still a functioning entity, but the answer was not immediately available.

Mr. McCue stated that the Cemetery Commission is at somewhat of a loss since no officers of the Chace Cemetery Association were present to address the deficit or represent the Association's present financial situation. Mr. Desmarais asked what next steps should be taken if the July 31st deadline passes without repayment. Mr. McCue stated there would be no logic in filing a lien since the property is tax-exempt and not likely to be sold. Mr. Wilbur asked about the possibility of the town taking charge of the cemetery, and Mr.

Desmarais felt there were too many unknowns regarding the present state of the Association and the administration of the property.

After further discussion, it was agreed on consensus to wait until the July 31st deadline. If no payment is received, and no attempt at communication is made by the Chace Cemetery Association, then the matter will be referred to the Board of Selectmen with an eye toward referring the same to Town Counsel.

East Freetown Cemetery

Mr. Desmarais reported no further action has been taken toward placing the stone.

Edminster Cemetery

No new information was available to report.

Guilford Evans Burial Ground

Mr. Desmarais reported contacting the school, but that the gentleman with whom he needed to speak was on vacation. He will make another inquiry soon.

Robinson Cemetery

Mr. McCue reported visiting the two cemeteries at the Stop & Shop warehouse, but that he was unable to access the Job Terry and Robinson cemeteries because of a change in land ownership. Stop & Shop can no longer allow access to those cemeteries via their property. Mr. Desmarais will contact Churchill & Banks to arrange for access to view the Robinson Cemetery.

Tisdale Burying Ground

Mr. McCue reported discussing this cemetery with Mr. Chace. Mr. Chace stated he had visited the area the week of June 24th to try and locate the cemetery and met Robert Barboza, whose property abuts Porter Pasture to the north. He stated Mr. Barboza had given permission to use his driveway to access the cemetery for restoration purposes only, and not to become a means of general access. Mr. McCue thereafter instructed Mr. Chace to price a three-foot walking path rather than a ten-foot vehicle access path, since there was no longer a need for Mr. Chace to bring his truck through the conservation property. Mr. Chace will be working on a price for the restoration work and will forward the same soon.

Winslow Cemetery

Mr. McCue provided information on signs placed at cemeteries in Berkley, and also about the signs used down on Martha's Vineyard. The signs on Martha's Vineyard are a plywood-based product, while the signs in Berkley are an aluminum product. Mr. Desmarais expressed a preference for the aluminum product, and asked that pricing information be obtained.

Next Meeting

No further meetings were scheduled.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, seconded by Mr. McCue, to adjourned at 6:58p. The motion was carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Michael T. McCue, Chairman