

June 4, 2002 Meeting Cemetery Committee for the Town of Freetown

A meeting of the Cemetery Committee for the Town of Freetown was held at the home of Mrs. Robert Parker at 15 Chace Rd., East Freetown, MA, at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday evening, June 4, 2002. The meeting was duly advertised, posted and handicapped accessible.

Harris Chace, Ralph Gurney and Elton Ashley, III were all present. Mrs. Parker was there as consultant and took the meeting minutes. Mrs. Harris Chace also attended. The cemetery maps and files are all here and may be accessed at any time by the commissioners.

Mr. Gurney, President, reported that he had been to two hearings on a development by Modular Homes on the south side of the cemetery from Rte. 79 west to Rte. 24. A third hearing is scheduled and he will attend.

A police report is already on file concerning trespassing by the Modular Homes Company. Photographs have been taken of are as on our southern sections numbered 19 & 20 where they ran over grave sites and a gravestone when they brought in their heavy equipment over the cemetery roads to get to the back of their property. We are asking that a fence be constructed.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to request a fence along our abutting line to conform to the fence the state installed on our west line between the cemetery and Rte. 24. A member or members of the committee will be at the next hearing.

Another hearing has been held concerning an ongoing project near the Quaker Cemetery on Friend Street. Mr. Gurney attended the hearing. This project is not a problem that will affect the cemetery. This is not a town cemetery, but we will keep a friendly eye on it.

The Cemetery Committee is in receipt of a letter from Troy Hill Estates at 154 North Main Street in Fall River (letter attached). This is concerning one of the two cemeteries that are actually in Fall River but belong to the Town of Freetown, being a part of the south end of Town that was made a part of Fall River in our early days. The cemeteries are badly overgrown and they are damaging the construction at Troy Hill. They wish to cut the trees and remove debris.

A unanimous vote was moved, seconded and passed in favor of allowing the Troy Hill people to do this according to the specifications that they set forth in the attached letter, using a licensed contractor to hand cut and clean up. Mr. Ashley will answer an e-mail from a Betty Zinger looking for an ancestor, her

grandfather, George Pickens, who died about 1901-1904. We found two in the files and he will send the information to her via e-mail.

A general discussion was held of various questions that we have handed. Burials, the sale of lots, the number of questions arising from the fact that there are genealogical programs on computers now and many people are looking for their ancestors. This is complicated by the fact that there are about 40 cemeteries in the town and only three are public cemeteries. Some have very small numbers of people in them and are deep in the woods. These are quite complete listings in the library of the Freetown Historical Society in Assonet. We often refer people there for early burials.

Mr. Ralph Gurney was confirmed as the chairperson of the committee by a unanimous vote.

Elton Ashley, III had talked with Marc St. Laurent, who takes care of the Assonet Burying Ground. It was voted unanimously to spend any money left in the two town accounts for grub killer, pesticides and fertilizer.

The next meeting will be on September 3, 2002. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and unanimously voted at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Harriett C. Parker, acting as Clerk