

Freetown Cemetery Commission
Minutes of the Monday, April 22, 2013 Meeting
Town Hall, 3 North Main Street, Assonet, Mass.

Present: Keven Desmarais (arrived at 7:05p), Adrienne Levesque (until 6:51p), and Mike McCue.

Call to order: Chairman Mike McCue called the meeting to order at 6:05p.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of February 4, 2013 were received. A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque, seconded by Mr. McCue, to approve the minutes as received. The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

The February and March reports were received.

Assonet Burying Ground

Continued discussion was held on purchasing stone posts to mark section corners in new sections. It was agreed on consensus to purchase posts if they could be obtained for a reasonable price. Mr. McCue will visit Albanese Monuments to check on posts that they had in their yard.

Edminster Cemetery

Progress of the restoration of this cemetery will be checked when Memorial Day flags are placed.

Michael Hathaway Burial Ground

Owing to the near-zero weather on Washington's Birthday, the Boy Scouts cancelled their work day. They anticipate returning later in the year, possibly on or around Columbus Day.

Nichols Cemetery

Thomas Nichols, previously in contact, has passed away and his daughter and son-in-law are working on transferring the title to their names. The property has been in the Nichols family since 1783, having been purchased from Robert Treat Paine. Additionally, Dan Reis has begun the process of cleaning out this cemetery. He is accessing it from Water Street through the cooperation of the Assonet Inn.

Plummer Burial Ground

Mr. McCue reported that the prior plans to burn brush and branches in the Plummer Burial Ground were put on hold when it was discovered how much poison ivy there is in the eastern portions of the property. Tom Copeland was asked to give a price on removing the debris, either by hauling it away or chipping it. After lengthy consideration, Mr. Copeland estimated he would need to have a crew on the property for six days at a cost of \$6,800.00 if he were able to make use of the Highway Department brush chipper or \$9,500.00 if he had to rent a chipper.

Mrs. Levesque did not feel that the budget could sustain either expense, and Mr. McCue agreed, noting that the department's full budget for the year is \$10,000 with approximately \$4,000 committed in advance for regular work. The volume of work was acknowledged as significant and tedious.

Discussion was held on contingency plans. Mr. McCue noted that Heath Chace had previously expressed an interest in this project, and suggested that he be contacted to determine if he was still interested and capable. Mrs. Levesque agreed, at least to compare Mr. Chace's price to that of Mr. Copeland.

Discussion was then held on whether a work crew from the House of Correction in North Dartmouth could be employed. It was proposed that having the prisoners move the debris from the scattered locations on the property to one specific location might ease the work and thereby reduce the price.

It was agreed on consensus to approach Mr. Chace for a timeline and price, and that if an agreement could be made, to approach the House of Correction to determine availability within the timeline; this agreement to stand pending any questions or concerns from Mr. Desmarais upon his arrival.

Recess

At 6:51p, there being no further new business, the meeting was recessed to allow time for Mr. Desmarais to arrive from a prior commitment in East Freetown and participate in the discussion on Plummer Burial Ground. At this time, Mrs. Levesque departed. The recess concluded at 7:05p when Mr. Desmarais arrived. Mr. Desmarais agreed with the standing decision, and no further discussion was held.

Next Meeting

No further meetings were scheduled.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting adjourned without vote at 7:09p.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Michael T. McCue, Chairman