

Freetown Cemetery Commission
Minutes of the Monday, October 6, 2014 Meeting
Town Hall, 3 North Main Street, Assonet, Mass.

Present: Keven Desmarais, Adrienne Levesque and Mike McCue.

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of September 2nd were not acted upon.

Superintendent's Report

The September report was not available.



Updates on Restoration Projects or Other Properties of Interest

Clark Graves

Mr. McCue reported that Karen Robitaille signed the easement for access and maintenance of the cemetery. The easement was recorded at the Registry of Deeds. Heath Chace has not yet been contacted.

Josiah DeMoranville Family Cemetery

Mr. Desmarais agreed to contact a representative from Chipaway Corp. to inquire about an access easement on this property.

Assonet Burying Ground

Several items regarding the Assonet Burying Ground were discussed at length, as follows:

(a) **Update on trash barrel placement**

Mr. McCue reported that all but two trash barrels had been removed from the cemetery. The remaining barrels are to be removed by the end of November.

(b) **Update on relocating and repairing the shed**

Mr. McCue reported that Roger Guimond was agreeable to taking down the trees wherever the shed is to be moved. It was agreed that the exact placement of the shed would be determined on the day that commissioners go out to view the cemeteries.

(c) **Update on the well**

Mr. Desmarais reported that he was unable to find suitable nonelectric means of putting the well back into service. It was agreed to abandon this project for the time being. The idea of a future water line connection was raised but not pursued.

(d) **Discuss proposed subdivision near Section 1**

Brief discussion was held on this subject. Mr. McCue expressed a desire to purchase the property if it were still available in the spring, and a strong desire to purchase a triangular area measuring 25' x 25' x 35' where the cemetery driveway comes to the cemetery proper. Mr. Desmarais did not feel there was a need to purchase any of the property, and that the triangular area could be secured by an easement. No further discussion was held.

Plummer Burial Ground

An estimate of \$2,250.00 was received from Marc St. Laurent for the removal of two trees at the Plummer Burial Ground. One tree is snapped and leaning over the Browns' field, and Richie Brown had requested it be removed before it fell. The other tree, easily exceeding 60' in height, was damaged and posed a serious

safety concern. Mr. St Laurent, in his estimate, stated a belief that the tree had in fact been struck by lightning, causing the visible damage.

Discussion was held on the price. All felt the price was fair in light of the fact that the tree had to be climbed to be cut and hauled away in pieces by hand, vehicular access being impossible. Mr. McCue stated that this would require belt-tightening on most other projects, and virtually eradicate discretionary money used to pay for grass seed, fertilizer, fall and spring cleanups, and any other projects outside of mapping and mowing; some mapping projects might even need to be delayed until next July. Mr. Desmarais felt that a tree being struck by lightning is the definition of what a Reserve Fund transfer is meant to cover. He volunteered to appear before the Finance Committee. All agreed to seek a transfer, and to have the trees removed anyway as a matter of safety should the request be denied.

Prices of Graves

An informational sheet was distributed. Due to the late hour and impending Conservation Commission meeting, discussion on this item was passed over.

Veterans Stones/Markers

Copies of a diagram prepared by the San Francisco National Cemetery, showing the specifications for setting upright headstones, were provided for review. No further action was taken on this subject.

Other Business Properly Before the Commission

Mr. Desmarais stated he could not attend the "cemetery tour/field trip" day if it were held the day following Thanksgiving Day. It was agreed to change the date to Saturday, November 1st. A preference was expressed by all to divide into two or three tour dates per year to hit all of the properties without taking up too much time on any one day.

As part of the above, brief discussion was held on some of the cemeteries in Assonet that are removed from the roadway (both on private property and as stand-alone lots with no frontage). Efforts will be made in the coming years to access and clear out the cemeteries with veterans as needed.

Next Meeting

No further meetings were scheduled.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, seconded by Mrs. Levesque, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:05p.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____

Michael T. McCue, Chairman