

Freetown Cemetery Commission
Minutes of the Monday, October 3, 2016 Meeting
Town Hall — Assonet, Mass.

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Present: Keven Desmarais, Adrienne Levesque, and Mike McCue.

Call to order: Mike McCue called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of September 12th were distributed.

Discussion on Special Town Meeting Articles

Brief discussion was held on two articles that will appear on the October 18th Special Town Meeting warrant that could related to the cemeteries. These discussions were held as the Planning Board will be holding its public hearing on October 4th.

- ◆ An article proposing to rezone various parcels in town to Open Space & Recreation to better align with their current uses would involve rezoning multiple cemetery properties from Residential, Industrial, General, or other zones to Open Space & Recreation zones. On unanimous consensus, a letter will be sent to the Planning Board stating support for this article as it relates to cemeteries.
- ◆ An article proposing to allow for electronic billboards in an overlay district the follows Route 24 from the Fall River line to the Assonet River was briefly discussed. The northern terminus of the overlay district includes the Assonet Burying Ground. On unanimous consensus, a letter will be sent to the Planning Board stating that the Cemetery Commission takes no position on the article as a whole, but does not wish for the Assonet Burying Ground to be included as it is both a cemetery and a part of the Assonet Village Historic District.

Discussion on Tree Work

Mr. McCue provided updates on pending and ongoing tree work, as follows:

- ◆ Assonet Burying Ground: Bruce Durfee anticipates carrying out his work here next week. This will include trimming branches overhanging into the cemetery, trimming or removing dead trees, and related maintenance work.
- ◆ Braley's Station Cemeteries: Work needed here does not appear to be an immediate need, so it is being postponed until FY18 unless something unusual occurs.
- ◆ Evans Cemetery: Mr. Durfee anticipates carrying out this work later this month. This is to include trimming branches and removing a dead maple tree near the Costi property.
- ◆ Mother's Brook Cemetery: Mr. Durfee will be out to this property to inspect the tree in question as soon as he is able.
- ◆ Plummer Burial Ground: Mr. Desmarais will contact Richard Brown to ask for a recommendation for someone to carry out the work here. It was noted that this work really should be done before winter.
- ◆ Winslow Cemetery: Mr. Durfee anticipates being at this cemetery on Wednesday (October 5th).

Assonet Burying Ground

Mr. McCue reported sending a letter to the Sheriff's Department asking about the possibility of the county work crews cleaning veterans' headstones. No response has yet been received.

The proposal from the previous meeting to establish a firebreak on the east property line was recapped for Mrs. Levesque as she had been absent from the meeting. This proposal was approved by the Conservation Commission, but work has not yet commenced.

A recommendation from Richard Brown was discussed. The cemetery rules currently require the removal of certain decorations at the end of the winter season and beginning of the mowing season. Mr. Brown suggested a sign specifying the exact date of removal be put up in the spring so people are not caught off guard. On unanimous consensus, a sign will be procured during the winter.

Updates on Restoration Projects, etc.

Mr. McCue reported on the work undertaken at the Dean Family Cemetery at Camp Welch. All were pleased with how this project, undertaken mostly by volunteers, turned out. It was noted that the folks at Camp Welch have expressed an interest in cleaning and repairing some of the headstones and keeping the cemetery in order now that it's been cleaned up.

Mr. McCue also reported on the Durfee-Hatheway Cemetery off Mill Street. At the previous meeting, it was discussed that one of the Assonet Boy Scouts was interested in cleaning up this cemetery for his Eagle Scout project. The Scout's plans were reviewed by Mr. McCue and were found to be in good order, and he expects to see more firm plans later this week. The project has been proposed for the Veterans Day weekend as it's a long weekend.

Any Other Business Properly Before the Commission

No other business was raised.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, seconded by Mr. McCue, to adjourn at 4:24 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: Michael T. McCue
Michael T. McCue, Chairman