

**Freetown Cemetery Commission**  
Minutes of the Monday, December 5, 2022 Meeting  
Town Hall — Assonet, Mass.

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**Present:** Jim Jose, Adrienne Levesque, and Mike McCue.

**Absent:** None.

**Call to order:** Mike McCue called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

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**Minutes & Superintendent's Reports**

Minutes of the last meeting were received, along with the Superintendent's reports for October & November.

**Assonet Burying Ground**

Work on creating an area for cremation graves on the west end of Section 14 was reviewed; it has been progressing, but slowly. This work may break for the winter and resume in the spring. The Highway Department will try and grade the area to make it more presentable; a few existing gravestones may be lifted as part of this process if necessary.

A request to allow granite curbing around an area of graves was discussed. Mr. McCue noted the cemetery rules prohibit decorations that inhibit mowing, but did not specifically define what was not allowed. Mr. Jose thought the granite curbing/raised lot could be allowed if the family committed to taking care of the lot themselves. Since such an arrangement could not be guaranteed, consensus was that this would not be allowed.

**Updates on Old Business or New Business**

Items taken up under this heading were as follows:

- ◆ Discussion was held on whether to institute price increases for lots and perpetual care beginning in January 2023. This subject was discussed within the last year, but was raised again due to ongoing inflation. Consensus was reached that prices should remain the same, so as not to burden, at a difficult time, families making arrangements for an immediate need. A motion was made by Mr. Jose, seconded by Mrs. Levesque, to leave the prices as-is. The motion carried unanimously.
- ◆ Discussion was also held on whether to restrict sales of lots to residents, along with former residents who had resided in town for at least five years (the same standard in place for resident/nonresident pricing). Mr. McCue stated this subject had come up as a result of an impromptu discussion between himself, the Town Administrator, and one of the members of the Board of Selectmen as to the practices in other communities and the long-term needs of the town as it continues to grow. Acknowledging that each city and town is required to provide burial space, that not all of our neighboring communities may be meeting that requirement currently, and that available land continues to be taken up by development, the long-term concern is whether Freetown can continue to serve the needs of its own residents. General discussion on this subject followed, after which a motion was made by Mr. Jose, seconded by Mrs.

Levesque, to restrict sales of lots to residents, and former residents who had resided in town for at least five years, as of January 1, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

- ♦ Mr. McCue reported discussing mowing prices with Tom Copeland and Heath Chace. Both agreed to hold their prices flat for an additional year (through June 30, 2024).

### **Meeting Adjourned**

A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque, seconded by Mr. Jose, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

This is a True Record by me.

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