

Freetown Cemetery Commission
Minutes of the Monday, August 25, 2008 Meeting
Town Barn, 201 Chace Rd., East Freetown, Mass.

Present: Ralph Gurney, Adrienne Levesque, and Mike McCue.

Call to order: Chairman Mike McCue called the meeting to order at 7:01p.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of June 23rd were received and read by Mr. McCue. Upon a motion made by Mr. Gurney, seconded by Mr. McCue, the minutes of June 23rd were approved as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Assonet Burying Ground

Mr. McCue reported that the response he got for having fallen headstones repaired was a rate of \$125.00 per hour, and that it was estimated the entire project would cost about \$700.00. This price was quoted by Rex Monuments of Taunton. A motion was made by Mr. Gurney, duly seconded by Mrs. Levesque, that Rex Monuments be hired to lift and set the sunken headstones in sections one through eight, up to \$700.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gurney inquired as to the status of the road project. Mr. McCue reported that the Highway Department has completed the roadwork and that there was enough material available to improve all the dirt roads with the exception of two small roads near Section 2.

Mr. McCue stated that in reviewing the laws relating to cemetery commissions, he discovered that rules and regulations adopted by such boards do not take affect until approved by Town Meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Gurney, duly seconded by Mrs. Levesque, that the Selectmen be asked to place an article to that end on the next town meeting warrant. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McCue stated that an article in the *Middleboro Gazette* reported that the Lakeville Cemetery Commission was investigating the purchase of columbaria. It was estimated that one such unit will take up the space of a single whole grave, but would hold up to 120 urns. He felt that it was worth asking Lakeville for information. Mr. Gurney agreed, but stated he would like to wait and see how Lakeville makes out with this. Consensus was to wait and see if Lakeville purchases a unit.

Mr. Gurney asked how much was available to spend for the remainder of the year. Mr. McCue stated there was \$6,000 or \$7,000 in the general budget (including the warrant article), and that the Town Accountant recently informed him there is about \$15,000 in perpetual care, which he noted was much higher than the last time he checked.

Morton Cemetery

Mr. Gurney reported that the Marks Family had submitted a bill for \$250.00 to cover the cost of gasoline due to the high prices of the summer. He noted that this was for six mowings, where in past years the same amount had covered only two. All felt that the bill was reasonable given the price of gas.

Old Quaker Cemetery

Mr. McCue reported that he received from the Historical Society a copy of a map produced by the state when Route 24 was being constructed. This map shows that the parking area of the old American Legion Hall in Assonet is actually an unmarked Quaker cemetery. His research indicated this cemetery is older than the existing Quaker Cemetery. It was noted that the cemetery is on town-owned land, and that the Parade & Fireworks Committee may not want to hold line-up for the Independence Day parade at this location in the future.

Richmond Cemetery

Mr. Gurney asked whether Greg Myers had done any work at the Richmond Cemetery. Mr. McCue reported that he did not know if Mr. Myers had been there yet, but that he was aware of the decision to have that cemetery cared for.

Rounsevell Cemetery

A bill was submitted by Robert S. Rounsevell for \$900.00 to cover mowings for the months of May, June, July, and August.

White Cemetery

Mr. McCue reported that he had spoken with John Ashley, and that the White Cemetery Association would like to have the money available to them signed over. Mr. Gurney stated that the White Cemetery Association had in the past acquired nearly all the principal available, and that it may be better to try and divest the town of all the White Cemetery funds, not just the interest. Mr. McCue will investigate the status of the remaining principal, which he estimated at \$1,650.00.

Next Meeting

A meeting will be posted for Monday, October 6, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Barn.

Meeting Adjourned

Upon motion of Mr. Gurney, duly seconded by Mr. McCue, the board voted to adjourn at 7:23p. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Michael T. McCue
Chairman