

Freetown Cemetery Commission
Minutes of the Monday, October 6, 2008 Meeting
Town Barn, 201 Chace Rd., East Freetown, Mass.

Present: Adrienne Levesque and Mike McCue.

Absent: Ralph Gurney.

Call to order: Chairman Mike McCue called the meeting to order at 7:05p.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of August 25th were received and read by Mr. McCue. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Levesque, seconded by Mr. McCue, the minutes of August 25th were approved as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Assonet Burying Ground

Mr. McCue reported that Rex Monuments of Taunton had not begun work in the Assonet Burying Ground yet, but he has been in contact with them several times and they do intend to do the work.

The price of cremation lots was noted as being \$200, with no breakdown of how much goes to "Sale of Lots" and how much goes to "Perpetual Care" when the funds are deposited. Mr. McCue recommended placing \$100 in each account. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Levesque, seconded by Mr. McCue, sales of cremation-only lots will be divided \$100 each to the "Sale of Lots" and "Perpetual Care" accounts. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McCue reported that the owners of a lot in Section 31 had called to say that the landscaping crew had damaged objects decorating their lot. He stated that the owners requested to be reimbursed for the price of one object (estimated at \$300) and that the landscaping crew not mow their lots anymore. Mr. McCue's response was that the town could not involve itself in a request for the landscapers to reimburse a private party. The mowing issue will be addressed in the spring.

Old Quaker Cemetery

Mr. McCue reported that he had spoken with Bruce Wilbur of the American Legion with regard to the cemetery. As even the boundaries of the cemetery are not marked, let alone the individual graves, all parties concerned will proceed with caution.

Richmond Cemetery

Mr. McCue reported that Greg Myers has begun work in the Richmond Cemetery, and the price for the first trip there was \$200.

White Cemetery

Mr. McCue reported that he had spoken with the Town Administrator, Winn Davis, regarding the White Cemetery perpetual care issue. Mr. Davis in turn spoke with Town Counsel Mark Reich. Atty. Reich recommended ways to enable the transfer of any funds for which the origin is unaccounted. Mr. McCue stated he submitted an article for the Special Town Meeting due to the town meeting deadline being October 1st, and asked for a vote to in fact move forward with that article. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Levesque, seconded by Mr. McCue, submission of the article was ratified. The motion carried unanimously.

Winslow Cemetery

A letter was received from Matt Logan of Boy Scout Troop 164 in Assonet, asking permission to clean out the Winslow Cemetery, an abandoned cemetery on Locust Street, as a service project. Mr. McCue noted that a church group had cleaned the cemetery in 1997, and that he and Matt Brown had cleaned the same cemetery in 2005. The town has not been able to maintain it between the times when volunteers have come forward due to limited funding. As a result, it is in need of attention again. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Levesque,

seconded by Mr. McCue, the Assonet Boy Scouts may clean the cemetery on Sunday, October 12th. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McCue mentioned he had spoken with Selectman Jean Fox with regard to cemeteries such as the Winslow Cemetery, the town's inability to pay for their maintenance, and statutory requirements to maintain the graves of veterans. He and Mrs. Fox both investigated grant possibilities to try and establish a perpetual care account for abandoned cemeteries, but they were mostly unsuccessful due to requirements that the Town cannot meet on account of the cemeteries being privately owned. As a result, Mr. McCue asked for permission to contact the state representatives for Freetown and ask for any assistance the state may be able to provide. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Levesque, seconded by Mr. McCue, a letter will be sent to the state representatives asking for assistance. The motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting

A meeting will be posted for Monday, December 1, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Barn.

Meeting Adjourned

Upon motion of Mrs. Levesque, 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