

Freetown Cemetery Commission
Minutes of the Monday, April 27, 2009 Meeting
Town Barn, 201 Chace Rd., East Freetown, Mass.

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

Absent: None.

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of January 26th were received and read by Mr. McCue. Upon a motion made by Mr. Gurney, seconded by Mrs. Levesque, the minutes were approved as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Reorganization

Mr. McCue asked if Mr. Gurney and Mrs. Levesque if either of them would like to be chairman, and both declined, so Mr. McCue will continue in that role.

Assonet Burying Ground

Mr. McCue reported that Rex Monuments had been contacted again and they promised to have the work completed prior to Memorial Day. He also stated he would be sending a letter to Greg Myers about mowing the cemetery prior to holidays. Mr. Gurney suggested having Mr. Myers come to the cemetery for spring clean-up prior to Mother's Day, and this will be added to the letter.

It was brought to our attention that Paul Bourgeois was organizing a list of town-owned buildings that might need work in an effort to put together a comprehensive article for one of the town meetings on June 1st. Mr. McCue suggested asking Mr. Bourgeois to look over the tool shed and see what repairs may be necessary. This was agreed to by unanimous consent.

Mr. Gurney mentioned the brick mausoleum and granite tomb, also. Although the mausoleum was thought to be in good shape, Mr. McCue noted that the hill around the tomb had been eroding. He reported meeting with Keven Desmarais with regard to the erosion, and that Mr. Desmarais suggested cutting the lock on the tomb and inspecting the structure from the inside if possible, then determining if the hill and trees should be removed or altered. Mr. Gurney explained the historical use of the tomb, and remarked that Harriet Parker had previously stated the tomb had not been used since around 1900. He also suggested having the Highway Department present when the tomb is opened in case any work was necessary. On unanimous consent, Mr. Desmarais and Chuck Macomber will be contacted to set this up.

Mr. McCue suggested taking the annual vote with regard to the fireworks. Upon a motion made by Mr. Gurney, seconded by Mrs. Levesque, the Parade & Fireworks Committee may use the field at the cemetery provided they clean up their boxes and other refuse. The motion carried unanimously.

A brief discussion was held on the trend in some other towns to prohibit people not living in-town from purchasing cemetery lots, or to charge non-residents a higher rate. It was decided at this time not to exercise either of those options.

East Freetown Cemetery

Mr. McCue reported speaking with Dave Cass about mapping the East Freetown Cemetery. Mr. Cass was very agreeable to undertaking this work, and so it was decided by unanimous consent to have Mr. Cass remap the cemetery. He will also be asked to add the newer sections in the Assonet Burying Ground to the map of that cemetery at the same time.

Evans Cemetery

Mr. Gurney will contact Merrill Snell with regard to a maple tree in this cemetery which may be dead.

Mother's Brook Graveyard

Mr. McCue reported that he was in touch with Adam Chapdelaine from the mayor's office in Fall River, and that more information was expected from them later this week.

Morton Cemetery

Mr. Gurney reported that the Marks family was interested in continuing the agreement previous established with them for maintaining the cemetery. Upon a motion made by Mr. Gurney, seconded by Mrs. Levesque, the agreement with the Markses will be continued in 2009. The motion carried unanimously, and Mr. Gurney will contact them.

Plummer Burying Ground

Mr. McCue reported that Rick Bowie has been cutting brush at this cemetery at a remarkable rate, and that many of the outlying headstones are now visible from the road. Mr. Bowie has expressed an interest in organizing a group to work on this cemetery, and it was decided by unanimous consent for the Cemetery Commission to be in favor of this, with the only restriction being that chainsaws may not be used.

Richmond Cemetery

A memo was received from the Police Department regarding persons being volunteered by the Trial Court to complete community service in lieu of fines. It was decided to investigate having these individuals do clean-up work at the Richmond Cemetery, and to see if rakes and other equipment could be borrowed from the Highway Department.

White Cemetery & Dr. Braley Cemetery

Mr. Gurney reported that the White Cemetery Association was beginning work on the restoration and expansion of the Dr. Braley Cemetery on Dr. Braley Road. Their work will include restoring the existing cemetery and creating new lots available for purchase in an undeveloped area.

Winslow Cemetery

Mr. McCue reported that Roger Guimond has burned the brush in this cemetery and buried the ashes on-site.

Next Meeting

A meeting will be posted for Monday, June 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Barn.

Meeting Adjourned

Upon motion of Mr. Gurney, duly seconded by Mrs. Levesque, the board voted to adjourn at 7:36p. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Michael T. McCue, Chairman