

**Freetown Cemetery Commission**  
Minutes of the Monday, August 31, 2009 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 7:00p.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of July 27th 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.

**Gravestone Rubbing**

Mr. McCue reported the sixth-grade teachers at the middle school had expressed an interest in gravestone rubbing. The children used to visit a cemetery in Rhode Island, but haven't for several years. All agreed that it would be a nice way for the students to learn local history if they came to a cemetery in town, and that the school would be allowed to visit if they wish.

**Quotes**

The idea of gathering quotes for 2010 was discussed. Mr. Gurney felt we should contact Greg Myers and see if he could come down a little on his current price. Mr. McCue and Mrs. Levesque agreed. Mr. McCue suggested posting a note at the Town Hall and possible a few other locations offering others the chance to submit a quote, since there had been some inquiries. It was decided to post a note and ask for quotes by September 30th.

**Assonet Burying Ground**

Mr. McCue reported that Albanese Monuments of Westport has finished the first round of work, coming in at \$455.00. Their work, especially on rebuilding the Richardson obelisk, was of very high quality. He also reported that he looked at the gates, and that the lettering cannot be blackened as it is because it is actually wearing flush with the stone in some places. Mr. Gurney noted that Albanese etched the sign at Memorial Park, which is also darkened. Upon a motion made by Mr. Gurney, seconded by Mrs. Levesque, Albanese will be asked to return and do more work on repairing headstones if they wish, and also to re-etch and darken the letters on the gates. The motion carried unanimously.

A bill was signed for Greg Myers for the late August mowing for \$1,600.00. The cemetery looks to be in great shape, and Section 35 has been mowed down to match the grass in the rest of the cemetery. Grateful acknowledgement was made of the donation of flowers by Antero Oliveira of Berkley to be placed on the graves of paupers. Mr. Oliveira is Keven Desmarais' father-in-law.

Discussing the boulder, Mr. McCue explained the idea of having a flagpole at the boulder and a plaque on the boulder. Mr. Gurney noted that the flag would need to have a light for nighttime, or that someone would need to take it down daily. The idea of a solar-powered light was raised. This will all be put on hold until the future.

The shed was briefly discussed. All agreed that the shed itself was not in the greatest shape. Mr. McCue expressed an interest in replacing the shed. Mr. Gurney stated a new shed would need to be built of concrete block to prevent wear. The contents of the shed were noted to be wooden planks and plywood for preparing lots, an old wheelbarrow, and some miscellaneous junk. Mr. Gurney will check with Harris Chace to determine if the wheelbarrow is his; otherwise, it may be given to the Town Auction. As for the shed itself, a new shed being cost prohibitive, it was agreed to think it over and discuss it again at a later time.

**Evans Cemetery**

A bill was received from Gregory Myers for \$225.00 for the late August mowing.

### **Mother's Brook Graveyard**

Mr. McCue reported he had a last-minute meeting in this cemetery on Friday with Adam Chapdelaine, Fall River's City Administrator, and Ken Pacheco, the city's Director of Community Maintenance. They walked the cemetery and discussed the situation. Fall River has a basic plan in place on how to preserve the cemetery as a historic property. An article will be submitted for the October 26th Special Town Meeting to try and clear this whole matter up.

### **Morton Cemetery**

A bill was received from Gail Camara-Marks for \$250.00 for all work in 2009. All were happy that we could continue working with the Marks family.

### **Richmond Cemetery**

A bill was received from Wallace DeMoranville for \$125.00 for an August mowing. Mr. Gurney reported he had asked Mr. DeMoranville to do what was necessary to make the cemetery presentable. Mr. McCue reported the cemetery looked remarkable. There is one headstone recently down, which looks like it may only need new pins. Mr. Gurney will take a look at this when he makes a trip to Berkley, since he cut pins for headstones in the Morton Cemetery some time back.

### **Veterans Cemetery**

Mr. Gurney reported that he was involved with this project back in 2002, and gave some background on it. He stated Mark Howland had been a big promoter of this project, and that those involved had approached Dennis DeMoranville about acquiring a 125-acre portion of his farm. At that time, Mr. DeMoranville was not very receptive. Mrs. Levesque reported that her husband, Rich, the Veterans' Agent, stated the land would have to be donated, and that there was a minimum number of acres necessary. She thought the minimum acreage was at least 100 acres, but probably more. Mr. Gurney stated that acquiring the necessary land had been a big stumbling block.

Mr. McCue noted the town owns a 70-acre parcel off Proprietors' Way, but that it's landlocked, with the only access being through land belonging to the Rezendes family. Mr. Gurney stated the ground in that part of East Freetown was much too rocky to support a cemetery without a lot of work, comparing the rockiness of the ground out there to how it is around the Town Barn and at Memorial Park. He noted that a simple trench at Memorial Park had produced five truckloads of rocks needing to be removed.

All agreed that it would be wonderful if there could be a national cemetery in town, but that there was very little available land that would but suitable and would not require a great sum to purchase.

### **Winslow Cemetery**

A bill was received from Wallace DeMoranville for \$200.00 for an August mowing. Mr. McCue noted that the cemetery continues to look very nice. Mr. Gurney suggested we may be able to avoid mowing here again until the spring.

### **Next Meeting**

A meeting will be posted for Monday, October 5, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Barn.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Upon motion of Mrs. Levesque, duly seconded by Mr. Gurney, the board voted to adjourn at 7:49p. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

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