

**Freetown Cemetery Commission**  
Minutes of the Monday, November 2, 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 7:06p.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of October 5th were received and read by Mr. McCue.

**Index**

At the suggestion of the Historical Society, an index is being prepared of all known cemeteries in town. The index will be cross-referenced with the Historical Society's list, and the Historical Commission's inventory from 1978. The completed index will be sent to the Historical Society and Historical Commission for comments and corrections.

**Interment Certificate**

Mr. McCue provided a draft copy of an interment certificate for discussion, and noted that several area towns have developed these. Mr. Gurney stated that Mrs. Parker used to deal with a smaller version, and it was determined this was the form issued by the Town Clerk. The state pre-prints the form with instructions that the funeral director, in the absence of a cemetery official, sign the form on behalf of the cemetery. The possibility of requesting that funeral directors no longer sign these forms, but instead forward them to the commission, will be discussed in the future.

**Assonet Burying Ground**

A bill was received from Albanese Monuments in the amount \$140.00 for another phase of work done to repair headstones in Assonet. Mr. McCue reported that they have fixed some, and will fix others in the spring. As for the gates, it was determined that the carvings could not be made darker due to the fact that the originals are precisely hand-carved, and that the stone is not suitable for re-carving. Albanese will supply a shadow paint to darken the letters and make them stand out more as they are instead.

Greg Myers will be contacted about completing fall clean-up both here and at the Evans Cemetery.

**Cemeteries on East Chipaway Road**

The three cemeteries clustered around the railroad tracks near the New Bedford Waterworks conduit off East Chipaway Road on Assessors' Map 253 were discussed:

- **Lot 31:** This cemetery is marked Braley's Cemetery on the Assessors' map. The Historical Society list refers to it as the Braleyville Cemetery. The ownership of this cemetery is unknown. Mr. McCue stated that a great portion of this cemetery was cleaned out by the family of Milton Bachellor last fall and spring. Mr. Gurney noted that in the 1990s, the town was working toward establishing a right-of-way to this cemetery through Lot 32, which is part of the New Bedford Waterworks conduit. He stated some clearing and other work had been done, and the city was very close to granting the right-of-way, but the plan stalled when there was a change of mayors. Mr. McCue volunteered to investigate whether the city would be amendable to this now.
- **Lots 29 and 29.01:** The cemetery at Lot 29 is marked Reynolds Cemetery on the Assessors' map, while the cemetery at Lot 29.01 is only marked "Town". The Historical Society list refers to the two cemeteries together as the Braleytown Cemetery. Mr. Gurney noted that Andy Simmons takes care of the Reynolds Cemetery, as they are family. Mr. McCue stated he visited the cemetery, accessing it through both the Reynolds Cemetery and along the railroad tracks. He determined that the town-owned portion has graves that are very overgrown, but it also appears that the Reynolds Cemetery is taking care of part of the town cemetery. Mr. Gurney suggested contacting Mr. Simmons and asking

what he may know about the property. Consensus was to see if Mr. Simmons would consider mowing the town portion for a reasonable amount if it were cleaned out. If he is not interested, Wallace DeMoranville will be asked.

#### **East Freetown Cemetery**

A discussion was held on the name of the right-of-way into the cemetery, which is presently posted as Hog Lane. Mr. Gurney stated that Joe Simmons had picked the name, as it had been the laneway to the pig farm out behind the cemetery. He felt a natural choice would be DeMoranville Lane, since the family owns the surrounding land, but there is already a lane by that name further down and across Chace Road. Mr. McCue stated he attempted to research the names of the original owners of the property, but the maps available for the Pocasset Purchase made it too difficult to determine. He suggested Pocasset Lane as an alternative. Mr. Gurney noted that whatever name was chosen would have to be agreeable to the DeMoranvilles. This will be discussed again in the future.

#### **Haskins Cemetery**

Copies of maps and deeds have been sent to Frank Wing, who may own this cemetery. Mr. Wing will be in touch after he has reviewed the documents, and may offer this cemetery to the town, as it is presently abandoned. All felt that if the offer were made, the town should accept the cemetery. This would require a town meeting article.

Mr. McCue will be in touch with the Lakeville Cemetery Commission, as this cemetery is on the town line and was included in a list of cemeteries Lakeville intended to take by eminent domain in 1969.

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

The article allowing for the conveyance of this cemetery to Fall River passed unanimously at the Special Town Meeting on October 26th. There is nothing more we can do until Fall River makes their next move.

#### **Plummer Burial Ground**

Mr. McCue reported that the cemetery is really beginning to shape up toward the front, and that he has been researching the exact ownership of the cemetery. An article will appear in tomorrow's edition of the *Herald News* about the cemetery.

#### **Richmond Cemetery**

Mr. Gurney has not yet been able to check on the fallen headstone here, but expects to do so soon.

#### **Next Meeting**

A meeting will be posted for Monday, January 25, 2010 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 7:47p. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

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