

**Freetown Cemetery Commission**  
Minutes of the Friday, July 16, 2010 Meeting  
Town Hall, 3 North Main Street, Assonet, Mass.

**Present:** Adrienne Levesque and Mike McCue.

**Absent:** Keven Desmarais.

**Call to order:** Chairman Mike McCue called the meeting to order at 1:10p.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of June 10th were received and read by Mr. McCue.

**Assonet Burying Ground**

Mr. McCue presented a notice which was posted by the Town of Monterey soliciting quotes for mowing that town's parks. He suggested this would be a good format to follow when soliciting quotes for mowing the Assonet Burying Ground in 2011. Mrs. Levesque agreed, and consensus was to put out a similar notice in September to try and secure quotes by October.

The subject of installing a flag pole was passed over, as Mr. Desmarais has done most of the research on this project and could not be present today.

The Cemetery Commission's expenses for the year ending June 30, 2010, were reviewed and discussed, along with the present year's bleak picture. It was suggested that if the price for mowing the Assonet Burying Ground cannot be lowered by soliciting quotes, it will be necessary to secure additional funding at the fall town meeting.

**East Freetown Cemetery**

Mr. McCue presented the draft layout of this cemetery, was prepared by Dave Cass and him.

In this draft, the cemetery is divided into three main sections, along with the section traditionally marked out for the burials of paupers. A twenty-foot road encircles the cemetery with cross lanes dividing the sections, and the lane now leading from the DeMoranvilles' barway to the lane was maintained.

The three main sections are each divided by ten-foot access lanes that will be for the use of the gravediggers in accessing the middle graves, but will remain paper roads not open to vehicle traffic. The majority of the numbered lots are laid out as 10' x 10' squares, capable of holding two caskets. Certain graves along the curves of roads are designed for one grave, cremations, or plantings as they are under-sized.

The lowest point of elevation, in the third section, occupies two lots (four graves) and was marked off for drainage, as it was assumed groundwater would settle there. The cherry trees, and the area around them, were marked off as "Woman and 20 Dogs" as that is where the reclusive old woman and her twenty dogs are said to be buried.

Mrs. Levesque concurred with marking off the lowest graves for drainage, and asked general questions regarding the layout. She did not have any changes to suggest. No discussion was held on the possible renaming of Hog Lane as it was felt that Mr. Desmarais should be able to add any suggestions he might have.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Levesque, duly seconded by Mr. McCue, the layout of the East Freetown Cemetery was approved, pending any changes that Mr. Desmarais might suggest after he has seen the layout. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Friends Cemetery**

A letter was received by the Swansea Friends Meeting regarding the Quaker cemetery at the corner of Friend and North Main streets. This letter was sent in response to the Cemetery Commission's inquiry as to whether the mailing address on file for the cemetery was still correct.

Mrs. Janice Chace, clerk of the Meeting, reported that the address was still correct. She further reported that the Meeting, which is now down to three members, had previously offered the town a perpetual care endowment of approximately \$1,000 when their last caretaker, Frank R. Wing, passed away. At that time, the town refused the offer, and Mrs. Chace asked if the present Cemetery Commissioners would be willing to reconsider.

Mr. McCue stated his belief that the town should accept the endowment, and Mrs. Levesque concurred. A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque, seconded by Mr. McCue, to send a letter in reply stating that the town would accept the endowment as offered. Mr. McCue asked that the letter also include an inquiry as to who would be responsible for the cemetery if the Friends Meeting ceased to exist, and Mrs. Levesque consented to this addition. The motion was then revised, and passed unanimously.

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

A reminder was made that the town would now be maintaining and planning for this cemetery as if Fall River's leadership had declined to take ownership, rather than simply not answered the inquiry.

### **Next Meeting**

No further meetings were scheduled.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Upon motion of Levesque, duly seconded by Mr. McCue, the commission voted to adjourn at 2:30p. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Michael T. McCue, Chairman