

Freetown Cemetery Commission
Minutes of the Monday, May 17, 2010 Meeting
Town Hall, 3 North Main Street, Assonet, Mass.

Present: Keven Desmarais, Adrienne Levesque, and Mike McCue.

Call to order: Chairman Mike McCue called the meeting to order at 6:05p.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of March 15th and April 26th were reviewed. A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque, seconded by Mr. McCue, to approve the minutes of March 15th. The motion carried with Mr. McCue and Mrs. Levesque in favor and Mr. Desmarais abstaining. A motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, seconded by Mrs. Levesque, to approve the minutes of April 26th. The motion carried unanimously.

Assonet Burying Ground

A bill was received from Greg Myers in the amount of \$1600 for the Mothers' Day mowing. Mr. McCue reported that Bruce Durfee and his crew were in the cemetery last week to spread the mulch, and it looks very nice. However, the bills for the mulch have not yet arrived.

Mr. Desmarais suggested the purchase of special flag holders to be put at the stone gates rather than drilling holes for the small flags. A set of black porcelain flag holders was found in a catalogue costing \$19.50 each. It was decided on consensus to order two holders for a total of \$39.00. While discussing flags, Mr. Desmarais also distributed information on flag poles and illuminators. This, along with information on more attractive trash barrels, will be reviewed at the next meeting. In the interim, Mr. Desmarais will approach local businesses to seek donations to cover the cost of the barrels.

A discussion was held regarding the shed and the well. Mr. McCue noted some have expressed an interest in having water at the cemetery. Mr. Desmarais suggested building the new shed over the well, to provide housing for a pump. Mrs. Levesque suggested there be a way for the portion of the shed with water access to be unlocked in advance of holidays. We will continue discussing this during the summer.

Mr. McCue reported that Danielle Chudolij of East Freetown is interested in taking on the project of photographing every headstone in this cemetery. The idea is that the photos will provide an additional record for each lot. Mrs. Levesque asked if the photos would be available electronically, and Mr. McCue stated he intended to eventually load the photos onto a website to aide in genealogical research.

Discussion was held on the price charged for mowing the cemetery. Greg Myers has expressed in the past that he does not feel he can mow the cemetery for less than his current rate. All felt that he should not be asked to do the work for less than he needs to get by, but that we must still find a way to reduce the overall cost, as we are slowly draining all our available funds. Mr. McCue stated that several others have expressed an interest in giving quotes next fall. Mr. Desmarais raised the possibility of hiring a seasonal employee. Both options will be discussed further.

East Chipaway Cemetery

Mr. McCue reported that Wallace DeMoranville will take on this cemetery. For the time being, Mr. DeMoranville was asked to pool the funds available for the Richmond and Winslow Cemeteries, and use one pot for all three properties.

East Freetown Cemetery

Although no further mapping has been done, it should be possible to begin selling lots in this cemetery this summer. Mr. DeMoranville will begin mowing this cemetery beginning in July, and is also interested in possibly digging graves here. He has shown a hearty knowledge of the cemetery and the locations of the few pauper burials. The name of the right-of-way into the cemetery was discussed briefly, with no action taken.

Morton and Quaker cemeteries

Mr. McCue reported sending letters to the last known contact persons for the Morton and Quaker cemeteries to be sure the contact information on file is still correct. He received a reply from Dr. Frederick A. Peirce regarding the Morton Cemetery. No word has yet been received regarding the Quaker Cemetery.

Nichols Cemetery

Mr. McCue reported that Mr. Nichols has not been in contact since the quotes were sent for his review.

Richmond Cemetery & Winslow Cemetery

Mr. DeMoranville has already begun work in these cemeteries.

Next Meeting

No further meetings were scheduled at this time.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting adjourned without vote at 7:40p.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____

Michael T. McCue, Chairman