

Freetown Cemetery Commission
Minutes of the Wednesday, September 29, 2010 Meeting
Town Hall, 3 North Main Street, Assonet, Mass.

Present: Adrienne Levesque and Mike McCue.

Absent: Keven Desmarais was absent due to illness.

Call to order: Chairman Mike McCue called the meeting to order at 6:30p.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of May 17th and September 2nd were received and read by Mr. McCue. A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque, duly seconded by Mr. McCue, to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Signing of Bills

Bills were received as follows: David J. Cass, \$150.00 for mapping for the East Freetown Cemetery; Anna DeMoranville, \$125.00 for mowing the Richmond Cemetery, \$200.00 for mowing the Winslow Cemetery, and no amount for mowing the East Freetown Cemetery; F. J. Remey Co., Inc., \$45.40 for the death register for the East Freetown Cemetery; and the White Cemetery Association, \$3.22 for the existing grant agreement. A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque, duly seconded by Mr. McCue, to pay all bills except Mrs. DeMoranville's bill for the East Freetown Cemetery. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McCue then explained that the remaining bill was submitted with a note saying that we should pay whatever amount we thought was fair, since this cemetery was not usually mowed. Subsequent to receiving the bill, he did some research and determined that when the town used to pay for this cemetery, they paid anywhere from \$615.00 to \$1,200.00 per year. For this year, he had budgeted \$1,000 for the cemetery. A discussion then followed, during which it was decided to pay \$1,000 for the year, with \$500 paid now and \$500 again in the spring, so long as this was acceptable to Mrs. DeMoranville. Mr. McCue then went outside and called Mrs. DeMoranville. He returned and stated that she was agreeable to that figure. Thereafter, a motion was made by Mrs. Levesque, duly seconded by Mr. McCue, that Mrs. DeMoranville be paid \$1,000 for the fiscal year for this cemetery, with \$500 to be paid now and \$500 to be paid in the spring. The motion carried unanimously. It was agreed that we would review this arrangement in the spring to make sure that the amount being paid was fair and commensurate with the work being performed.

Special Town Meeting

The original purpose of this meeting was to discuss and vote on articles for the autumn Special Town Meeting. The four articles were discussed, as follows:

- Articles 1 & 2 were in related to the Haskins Cemetery. The first article allowed the Cemetery Commissioners to accept the deed to the cemetery. The second article appropriated \$125 from the Cemetery Land Stabilization Fund to fund the recording cost for the deed. Mr. McCue stated these articles were the same as were turned in for the Annual Town Meeting. A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque, duly seconded by Mr. McCue, to submit the articles. The motion carried unanimously.
- Article 3 called for acceptance of amended Rules and Regulations. Mr. McCue reviewed the changes to the Rules and Regulations. They included allowing farm vehicles to cross the East Freetown Cemetery on existing paths, specifying the dimensions of a cremation-only grave, extending the period during which lot purchasers must buy headstones, excluding the period of the Independence Day festivities from the times allowed for funerals and burials in Assonet only, added a provision allowing this board to assign lots sequentially (for ease in selling lots in East Freetown), added a provision for the licensing of gravediggers, and cleaned up the wording on some rules. A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque, duly seconded by Mr. McCue, to approve the amended rules and regulations. The motion carried unanimously. A motion was then made by Mrs. Levesque, duly seconded by Mr. McCue, to submit the article. The motion carried unanimously.

- Article 4 asked for a necessary supplement for the Cemetery Commission budget. Mr. McCue reviewed the current financial situation. The budget for the current year was \$4,400. This was less than half the original request. At the present time, \$2,224.80 has been spent. More than \$1,500 additional is committed to spring mowings. This does include the addition of Mother's Brook, and also does not allow for the Assonet Burying Ground should next week's bids come in lower than hoped. Mrs. Levesque asked what a reasonable amount would be. Mr. McCue stated that in a prior year, when similar problems occurred, \$5,000 was added. He estimated that in this year, \$5,000 would pay for spring maintenance to Mother's Brook, two mowings for the Assonet Burying Ground, and the rest could be kept aside in case the East Freetown Cemetery amount needed to be raised, and/or be divided among the smaller cemeteries as needed. A motion was then made by Mrs. Levesque, duly seconded by Mr. McCue, to submit the article in the amount of \$5,000. The motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting

No further meetings were scheduled.

Meeting Adjourned

Upon motion of Mrs. Levesque, duly seconded by Mr. McCue, the commission voted to adjourn at 8:05p. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Michael T. McCue, Chairman