

**Freetown Cemetery Commission**  
Minutes of the Tuesday, February 22, 2011 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 6:38p.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of January 11th were received. A motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, duly seconded by Mrs. Levesque, to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

**Correspondence**

A letter was received from the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends regarding the Friends Cemetery. They will be researching what information they may have as to its ownership.

**Assonet Burying Ground**

Mr. McCue turned his copy of the 1993 Assonet Burying Ground layout map over to Mr. Desmarais to have it copied. Copies will be obtained for Mrs. Levesque, Mr. Desmarais, and for John Ashley as he is now digging graves in addition to Harris Chace. It was then acknowledged that the fence had been repaired, but that a tree recently fell from a yard on Freeman's Circle and landed in the cemetery to the east of the tomb, across the Thwaites lot, and had caused new damage to the fence.

**Budget for FY12**

Mr. McCue stated the budget was submitted at the \$19,122 figure. Mr. Desmarais suggested investigating the possibility of hiring seasonal workers to perform cemetery maintenance to try and reduce the cost. Mrs. Levesque and Mr. McCue agreed that this should be looked into.

**1995 GMC Pickup**

Discussion was held on the 1995 GMC Pickup which was previous in use by the Highway Department and was now in use by the new Animal Control Officer. Mr. McCue reported being told that a different vehicle was being sought for the Animal Control Officer's use, and felt that the Cemetery Commission should request the 1995 GMC if it became available. Mr. Desmarais stated that the Water Commission and Sewer Commission had expressed an interest in either the 1995 GMC or the 1990 previously used by the Dog Officer. It was agreed to request at least one of the two, to be worked out with the Water Commission.

**Annual Town Meeting**

Discussion was held on four possible articles to be submitted for the Annual Town Meeting.

- The first article was the standard transfer of funds from the Sale of Lots account to the Cemetery Commission budget. The recommended sum for FY12 is \$5,000. A motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, duly seconded by Mrs. Levesque, to submit the article. The motion carried unanimously.
- The second article was to amend a vote taken under Article 3 of the Annual Town Meeting held March 30, 1874, with regard to the Superintendent of Assonet Cemetery. The article would change the title. It was noted that certain documents require a superintendent's signature. A motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, duly seconded by Mrs. Levesque, to submit the article. The motion carried unanimously.
- The third article was to request \$330.00 for the maintenance of veterans' graves in the Nichols Cemetery. The law regarding veterans' graves was explained. The sum was determined by dividing the estimate for restoration (\$3500.00) by the total number of graves (64), and multiplying that figure rounded to the nearest whole dollar (\$55.00) by the number of veterans' graves in the cemetery (6). A motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, duly seconded by Mrs. Levesque, to submit the

article, subject to determining whether it could be paid for out of the general budget. The motion carried unanimously.

- The fourth article regarded allowing the Cemetery Commission to employ its own members in cemetery maintenance. This article was meant to be a way to allow commissioners to do some work at a cheaper rate than contracted labor. It was also suggested that if seasonal workers were hired, this would allow commissioners to work with them and provide supervision. Several points, both pro and con, were discussed. Consensus was reached that the rate of pay be proposed at \$15.00 per hour. A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque, duly seconded by Mr. Desmarais, to submit the article pending the result of a discussion to be had between Mr. Desmarais and Jack Healey, the interim Town Administrator, regarding any potential issues. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Next Meeting**

No further meetings were scheduled.

#### **Meeting Adjourned**

Upon motion of Mrs. Levesque, duly seconded by Mr. Desmarais, the commission voted to adjourn at 7:18p. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

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