

**Freetown Cemetery Commission**  
Minutes of the Monday, November 7, 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 6:36p.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of March 23rd, June 1st, June 13th, and August 31st were read and approved as read.

**Appointment of Superintendent**

Commissioners were polled to determine who would serve as superintendent. Mr. Desmarais stated it should be Mr. McCue, as the duties of superintendent have been carried out by the chairman for many years. Mrs. Levesque agreed with this determination. Thereafter, an appointment slip was signed by those present appointing Mr. McCue as superintendent until June 30, 2012.

**Correspondence**

There was no incoming correspondence to discuss.

**"Find A Grave" Website**

Discussion was held on the "Find A Grave" website, it being a tool for people researching genealogy and related matters. Mr. McCue suggested the commission begin posting some of its records online to aide in research, and to reduce inquiries made to the commission. It was agreed to pursue this, limiting the records as follows: (1) The person must have died in 1960 or earlier. (2) Information in the records must have been verified by comparison with the headstone, such as with the photographs taken by Danielle Chudolij.

**Gravediggers' Licenses**

Mr. McCue stated there are currently four licensees: John Ashley, J. M. Equipment, Dean Pettey, and Heath Chace. He asked if there should be a cap on the number of licenses. Mr. Desmarais felt there should not. Mrs. Levesque agreed.

**Assonet Burying Ground**

Mr. McCue reported on his discussions with Tom Daley to date regarding mapping in the cemetery. Mr. Daley has expressed an interest in taking over from Dave Cass, and Mr. McCue outlined what should be mapped in the future, specifying what needed to be done specifically before June 30, 2012.

It was noted that the Ouimet headstone in Section 15 has been moved to its new location, and the headstone for Mull/Torres has been placed in its correct location. The matter is now resolved.

Mr. McCue stated that John Ashley has volunteered to clear an extension of Section 35 when he is in the cemetery to perform burials. Mrs. Levesque asked where the extension was, and Mr. McCue stated it was to the east of the present Section 35. He stated that Ralph Gurney had laid the section out for 80 graves in two rows of 40, and this would allow for that. He also stated Mr. Ashley left several trees which he offered to whoever may want them for firewood.

The Highway Department was acknowledged for replacing the last of the dirt roads in the older part of the cemetery with asphalt grindings. These grindings were made available by the resurfacing of South Main Street, and so it was not necessary to purchase them as in the past.

Discussion was held on obtaining small signs to mark the sections in the cemetery. Mr. McCue noted that he had planned to make them out of street sign blanks, but that Chuck Macomber, the Highway Surveyor, recommended purchasing smaller signs from a sign shop for a cleaner look. Mr. Desmarais offered to contact Best Signs, a local contractor he has dealt with in the past, and this was agreed to on consensus.

No discussion was held on the placement of a flag pole. A brief discussion was held on a veterans' monument, but consensus was to wait until the proposed area is cleared.

#### **East Freetown Cemetery**

Mr. Desmarais reported that he was still looking into acquiring a stone or boulder to place at the entrance to the cemetery. He will continue to work on this.

#### **Edminster Cemetery**

Mr. McCue gave a general description of the location of the Edminster Cemetery, which is located on land belonging to Bryant Hill Farms, accessed via Quarry Drive and property of Cape Cod Aggregates. This is a small family cemetery with several members of the Edminster family, including one Lemuel Edminster, a veteran of the War of 1812. Mr. McCue expressed an interest in seeing the cemetery cleaned up during 2012 to recognize the anniversary of the war. Mr. Desmarais suggested contacting the Petteys or Cape Cod Aggregates to see if they would be willing to take on the project prior to taking any further steps. This was agreed on consensus.

#### **Haskins Cemetery**

Mr. McCue reported on a trip he made in October to the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds to research the cart path on the northeast side of the cemetery. Speculation was that the cart path may have been an older layout of Mill Street (Lakeville). Descriptions of the path in several nineteenth-century deeds lent credibility to this speculation, as did several maps showing the location of Mill Street migrating between 1891 and 1943.

Copies were shown of three maps, as well as of a deed dated May 20, 1869, conveying the property of John C. Haskins (then-deceased) in Lakeville to John D. Wilson of Assonet. Included in this deed is a reference to the property being bounded "westerly by a road or way leading to the mills of Charles G. Davis" where in 2011, the property is shown bounded not by a road or way, but by the town line. With these documents, it was determined that should the voluntary points of access provided by several of the neighbors to this cemetery become unavailable, it would be reasonable to pursue use of the cart path.

*(Note: Maps referenced in the discussion of this cemetery and the right-of-way thereto are appended to the end of these minutes.)*

#### **Morton Cemetery**

Discussion on this topic was postponed.

#### **Nichols Cemetery**

Brief discussion was held on the need to raise funds for the restoration of this cemetery, as well as the need to secure a right to the right-of-way once funds have been raised.

#### **Next Meeting**

No further meetings were scheduled.

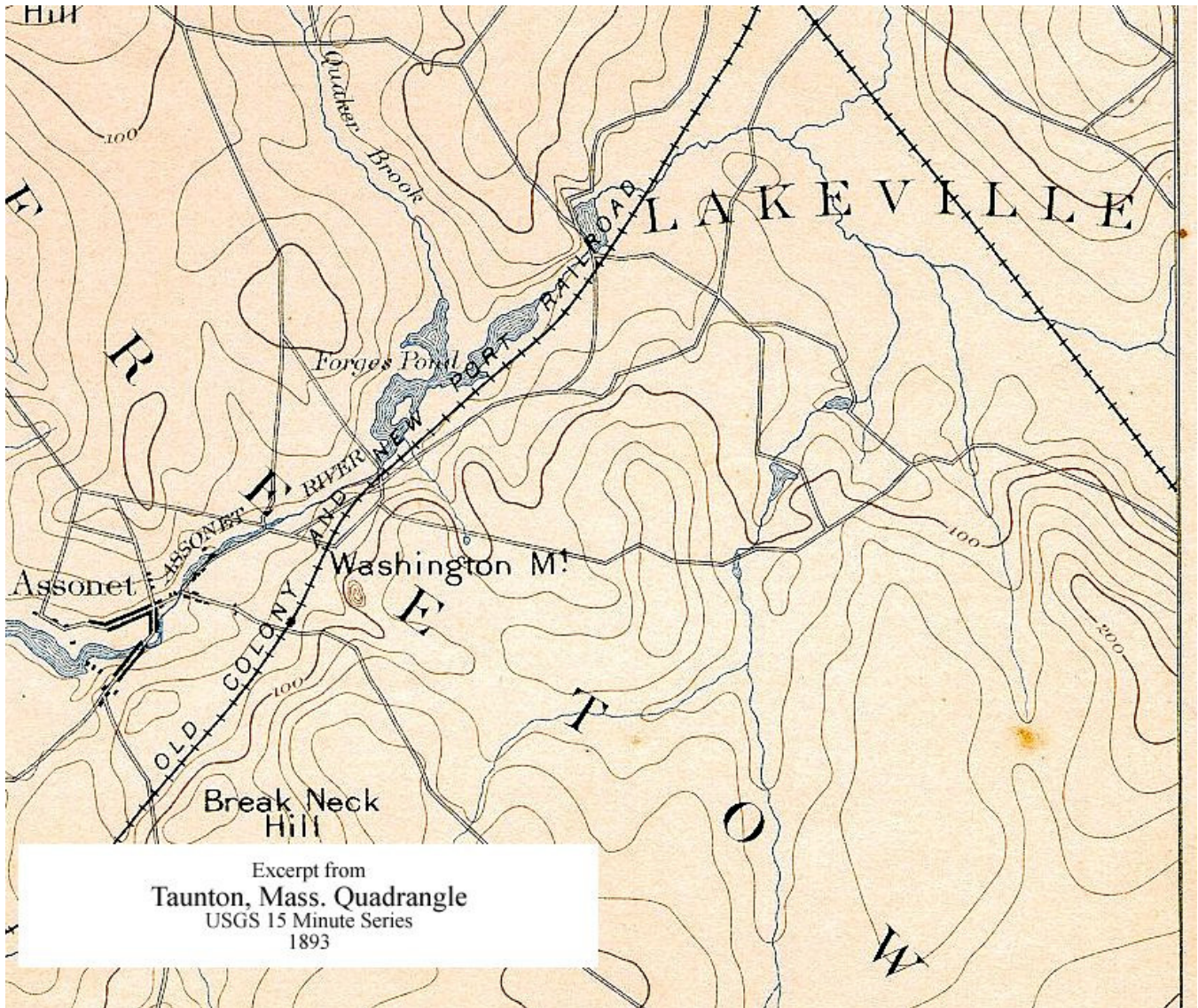
#### **Meeting Adjourned**

Upon motion of Mrs. Levesque, duly seconded by Mr. McCue, the commission voted to adjourn at 7:19p. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

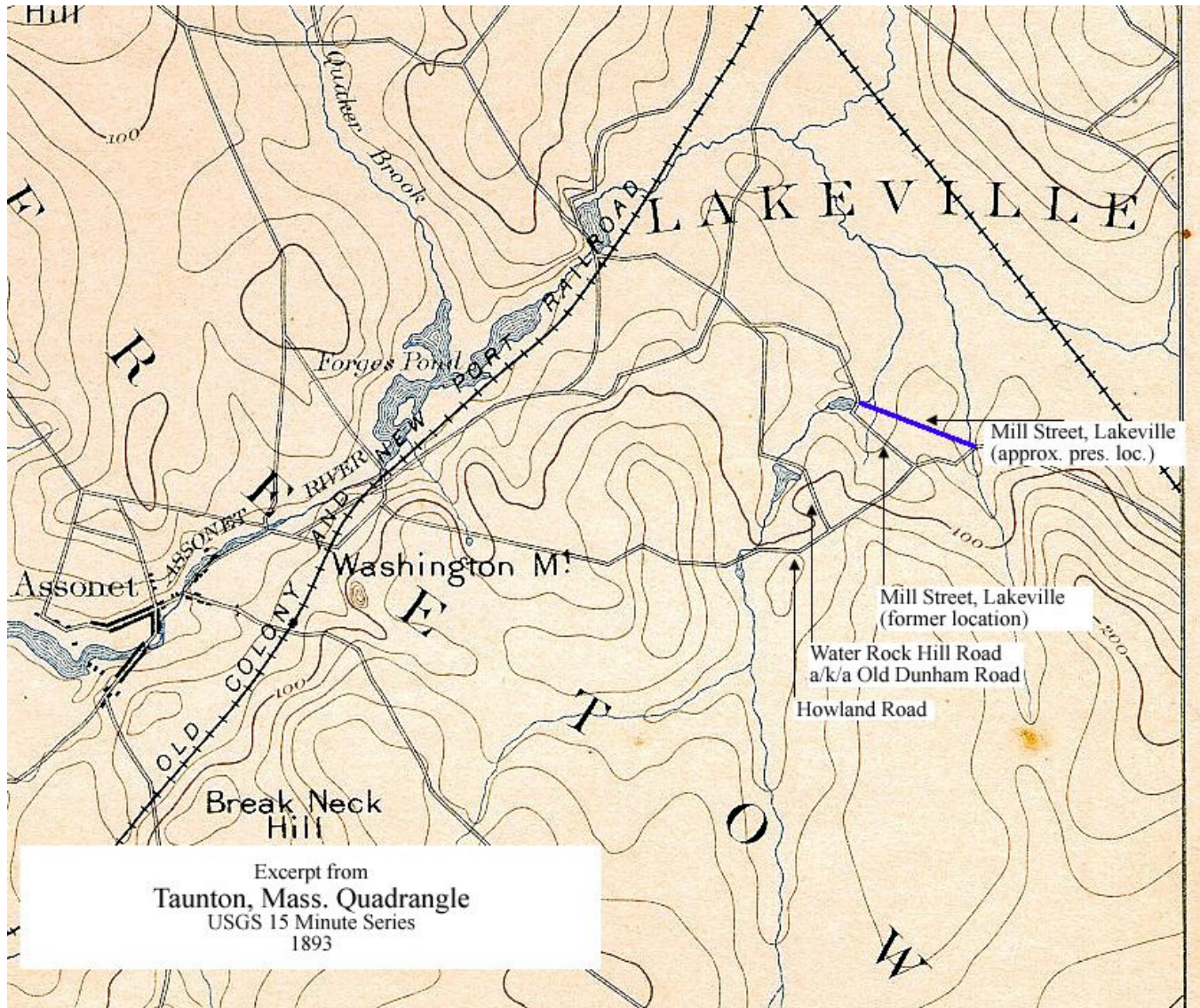
Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael T. McCue, Chairman

Maps Used in Discussion of Haskins Cemetery (1 of 4)



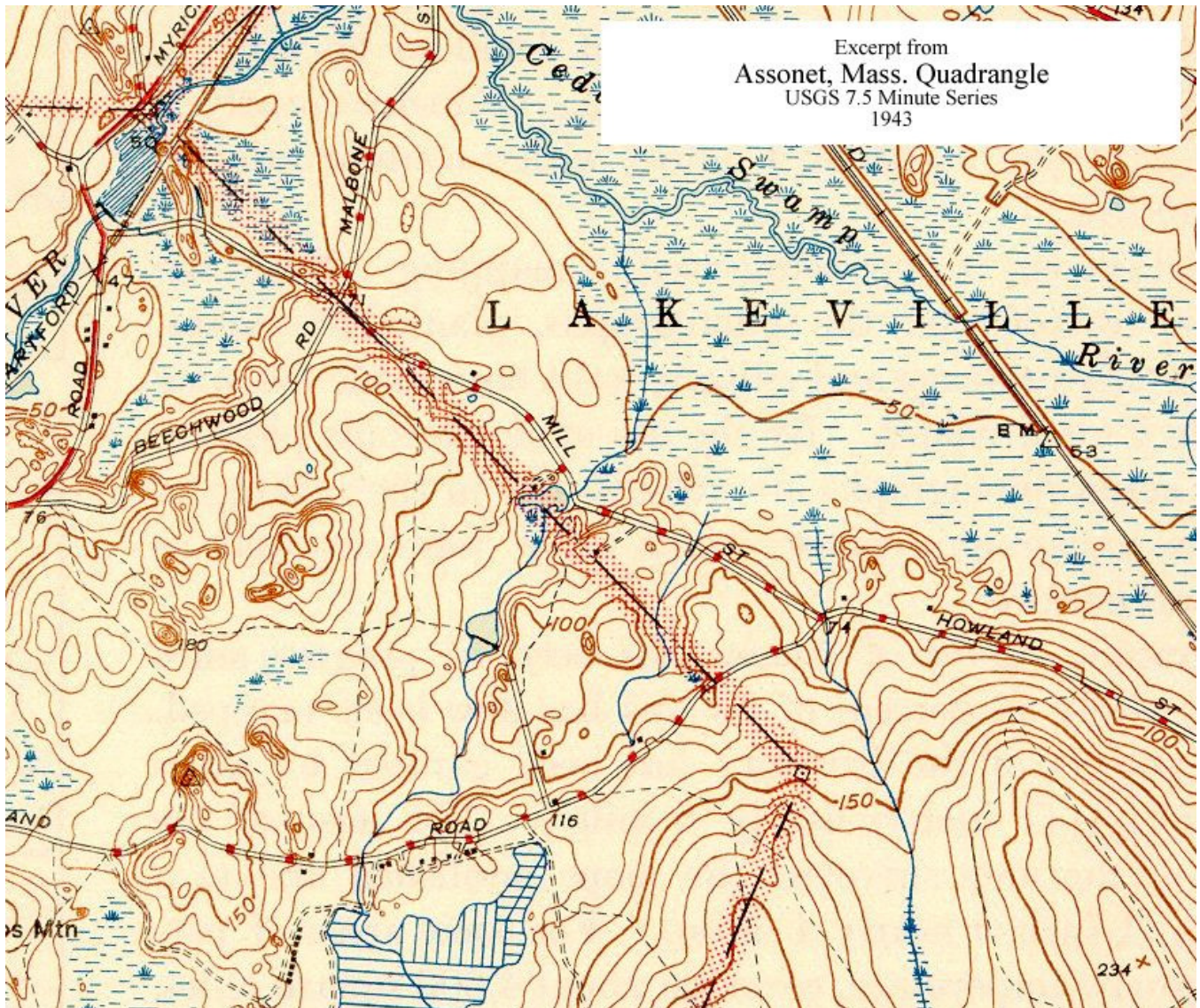


Maps Used in Discussion of Haskins Cemetery (2 of 4)





Maps Used in Discussion of Haskins Cemetery (3 of 4)





Maps Used in Discussion of Haskins Cemetery (4 of 4)

