

FREETOWN CEMETERY COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Monday, September 25, 2006 Meeting
Multi-Purpose Senior Center – Upstairs Conference Room
227 Chace Rd., East Freetown, Mass.

Present: Ralph Gurney, Chairman; Mike McCue, Secretary; and Harris Chace.

Absent: None.

Guests: Young Harris Chace.

Call to order: Chairman Ralph Gurney called the meeting to order at 7:00p.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of July 13, 2006, were received and read by Mr. McCue. Upon a motion made by Mr. Gurney, and duly seconded by Mr. McCue, the minutes of July 13th were approved as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Assonet Burying Ground

Mr. Gurney reported that Gregory Myers of Lakeville had been maintaining the cemetery since July. Although the original cost seemed to be much higher than that of the previous contractor, it was realized that with fewer mowings at a higher price, the amount paid out was roughly the same.

Mr. McCue reported that Mrs. Mary Brown, chair of the Historical Commission, had expressed a concern over the maple trees lining the entrance to the cemetery. Mr. Gurney had also noticed that two of the trees were dead or dying, and he will contact the Tree Warden to see about having the trees removed.

Mr. Gurney asked if the Board of Selectmen could be consulted on whether it would be a conflict of interest for the Cemetery Commissioners to perform tree removal work in the cemetery in exchange for keeping the wood as firewood, since this would not technically be a compensated act. Mr. McCue will inquire with the Selectmen.

Mr. McCue reported that the number of trash barrels in the cemetery had been reduced to three, and they were now all situated at the entrance near the Ames/Bismore/Gagne lot. He also reported that the Highway Department had removed a granite post from the yard of a residence on Freeman's Circle. The owner had requested it be moved because it was just lying in the middle of the lawn.

Mother's Brook Graveyard

Mr. McCue reported that there were a few dead trees in the Mother's Brook cemetery in North Fall River. Mr. Gurney was not sure that the town's Tree Warden could remove trees from town-owned property in another community. This will be investigated further.

Morton Cemetery

It was reported that Greg Myers has taken over maintenance of the Morton Cemetery.

Evans Cemetery

It was reported that Greg Myers has also taken over maintenance of the Evans Cemetery at roughly the same cost as the previous contractor.

Correspondence

Mr. McCue relayed a conversation he had had with Mrs. Mary Brown. She had inquired as to whether or not two additional graves could be fit in between the corner markers and the roadway in front of the Rezendes lot (Section 1, Lot 6). He reported that he had gone down and inspected the site, and he thought that it would be a tight fit, right up to if not underneath the roadway. Mr. Gurney said a perpendicular burial was slightly possible, but that it would be a new lot that would have to be paid for, and that if the roadway were ever widened it would be an issue. It was decided on consensus that the additional graves would not be possible.

Special Town Meeting

Mr. McCue presented four articles for the October 30th Special Town Meeting:

- **ARTICLE** : To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the care and maintenance of cemeteries in accordance with Sections 16 and 18 of Chapter 114 of the General Laws, and/or take any action relative thereto.
- **ARTICLE** : To see if the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for the purposes of surveying and mapping the Assonet

Burying Ground, such surveying and mapping having last been done in 1993, and/or take any action relative thereto.

- ARTICLE : To see if the Town will vote to create a "Cemetery Land Fund" in accordance with the provisions of Section 5B of Chapter 40 of the General Laws, and to raise, appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to initiate said fund, and/or take any action relative thereto. This stabilization fund shall be used to help offset any future expenses related to purchasing land for use as cemetery land once the Assonet Burying Ground is filled to capacity.
- ARTICLE : To see if the Town will vote to transfer all interest earned on the White Cemetery trust fund, as of September of 2006, to the White Cemetery Corporation, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Gurney, and duly seconded by Mr. Chace, the four articles were approved to be passed on to the Board of Selectmen. The motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting

A meeting will be posted for the evening of Monday, November 6th at 7:00p at the Senior Center.

Meeting Adjourned

Upon motion of Mr. McCue, duly seconded by Mr. Gurney, the board voted to adjourn at 7:30p. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Michael T. McCue
Secretary