

FREETOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
Minutes of the Monday, October 1, 2007 Meeting
Town Barn, 201 Chace Rd., East Freetown, Mass.

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

Absent: None.

Guests: Young Harris Chace and Atty. Joe Rosa.

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of June 18, 2007, were received and read by Mr. McCue. Upon a motion made by Mr. Gurney, and duly seconded by Mr. Chace, the minutes of June 18th were approved as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Assonet Burying Ground

Mr. McCue reported that Roger Guimond has removed the dead maple trees alongside the main road into the cemetery, and is clearing other dead trees from the property.

Mr. Gurney noted that the Chace Cemetery makes sure to have their grounds mowed for Mothers' Day, Memorial Day, Fathers' Day, and the Fourth of July, and they then base mowings on need from July through the autumn. He will discuss that schedule with Greg Myers to determine if it's a plausible route for the Assonet Burying Ground.

Discussion was held again on the land between Section 1 and the roadway. Upon a motion made by Mr. Gurney, and duly seconded by Mr. McCue, it was voted not to sell this land, and to prohibit folks from being buried there. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gurney reported that Greg Myers has had his crew bypass certain areas of the cemetery because the ground is infested with yellow-jackets. Young Mr. Chace indicated that this was a sure sign of a bad winter, since they are nesting underground.

Atty. Rosa was present representing Mrs. Pauline Rosa and Mr. Gerald Nacaula, his mother and uncle. Mr. Rosa provided the board with a letter signed by Mrs. Rosa and Mr. Nacaula regarding graves they own in Section 19 of the Assonet Burying Ground, along with a map of a portion of Section 19 displaying these graves. He indicated that Rudolph & Lillian Garneau, his aunt and uncle, own Lot 42 in Section 19; his mother, Mrs. Rosa, owns Lots 40, 41, 53, and 54 in Section 19; his uncle, Mr. Nacaula, owns Lot 55 in Section 19; and that together, his family owns six lots totalling twelve graves in the northeast corner of Section 19.

Mr. Rosa indicated that for various reasons, members of his family had been buried scattered throughout these twelve graves. To cause the deeds for the lots to be an accurate reflection of who is buried where, his mother and uncle are requesting via a signed letter now on file that various lots be exchanged within the family. Upon a motion made by Mr. Gurney, and duly seconded by Mr. McCue, the Commission voted to adjust the lot lines and numbers in Section 19 to reflect these changes. New deeds will be issued and recorded with the Town Clerk, and our books will be updated.

Mr. Rosa also suggested the installation of a water pump at the old well next to the shed. This topic was discussed at length, with the Commission feeling that town water and/or an electric pump were impossible as the cemetery is not connected to utilities, and an adequate hand pump might be too expensive. Mr. Rosa indicated he would assist with fundraising if it were necessary. With this in mind, members will research prices and report back at the next meeting.

Mr. Rosa asked to discuss his past inquiry into buying an eight-grave parcel in the older portion of the cemetery. Mr. McCue indicated he had found an abandoned lane bisecting Section 15 that would probably fit eight graves. He will measure the area, identify it on the map, and provide Mr. Gurney with the information.

Mrs. Susan Dermody, owner of Lots 51 & 52 in Section 31, inquired by e-mail about having her corner markers installed. She stated the monument company was waiting for a foundation for another headstone to be installed to avoid making two trips. Young Mr. Chace said he has the foundation in hand, but has not had an opportunity to install it.

Morton Cemetery

Mr. Gurney reported that the Marks Family on Middleboro Road has offered to maintain the Morton Cemetery at a cost of \$250.00 per year. He further reported that Greg Myers was more than willing to give up mowing the Morton Cemetery. A letter will be sent to the Marks' to formalize this arrangement.

Maps

Mr. McCue reported that he and Dave Cass had not been able to get together over the summer. He further reported that he had run into Mr. Cass in Fall River recently, and that Mr. Cass was still interested in completing the new maps as soon as he had free time.

Rules and Regulations

Mr. McCue provided a draft of Rules & Regulations, based on those of the Chace Cemetery Association and several other towns. A motion was made by Mr. Gurney and duly seconded by Mr. Chace to adopt the Rules & Regulations. With one amendment, allowing for corner markers to be installed when the gravestone is purchased rather than when the graves are purchased, the Rules & Regulations were adopted unanimously.

Fees

Mr. Gurney reported that the Chace Cemetery Association met recently, and voted to amend their fees. He also noted that graves in that cemetery will now be sold in sets of two since they are running out of space. The new fee for the Chace Cemetery is \$1,650 for two graves, with \$600.00 for the lot and \$1,050.00 for perpetual care. With those fees in mind, a motion was made by Mr. Gurney and duly seconded by Mr. McCue to raise the price of two graves at the Assonet Burying Ground to \$1,600.00, with \$600.00 for the lot and \$1,000.00 for perpetual care. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McCue questioned if a fee should be established for single graves, and Mr. Gurney concurred. A motion was made by Mr. Gurney and duly seconded by Mr. McCue to set the price of a single grave as \$250.00 for the grave and \$550.00 for perpetual care, with a total price of \$800.00. The motion carried unanimously.

It was agreed on consensus that the new prices will take effect immediately. An exception will be made for Atty. Rosa, since he began the process of purchasing his graves prior to the vote. Mr. Rosa will pay the \$1,700.00 rate with \$675.00 being for the lot and \$1,025.00 going toward perpetual care.

Correspondence

Mr. McCue reported that he had exchanged e-mails with Fr. John Sullivan about meeting with the board. Fr. Sullivan was not able to attend this evening's meeting, but would still like to meet with the board in the future.

Next Meeting

No further meetings were scheduled at this time.

Meeting Adjourned

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

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Michael T. McCue
Secretary