

Freetown Cemetery Commission
Minutes of the Monday, October 1, 2018 Meeting
Town Hall — Assonet, Mass.

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J. Brown

Present: Keven Desmarais, Adrienne Levesque, and Mike McCue.

Absent: None.

Call to order: Mike McCue called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

Receipt of Minutes / Superintendent's Report

Minutes of June 11, 2018, were received. The Superintendent's Reports for June, July, August, and September, including bills paid since the previous meeting, were also received.

Assonet Burying Ground

Discussion was held on the requirements for gravestones in the Veterans Section; particularly, whether or not each grave must be individually marked. The concern was that if spouses are not purchasing their own stones, and are instead adding their names to the stone obtained from the VA, the section will eventually be a hodgepodge of marked and unmarked lots. (This concern applied to full burials, and not to cremations, where only one lot is used and the expectation was that the stone would be shared.) All agreed to think the matter over and discuss again at the next meeting.

Mr. McCue reported that work was progressing on the new section north of Section 8.

Discussion on Seasonal Labor

Mr. McCue noted that Richard Brown's recent unavailability demonstrated the need to consider seasonal help in the cemeteries. When Mr. Brown was unavailable, the trimming was left undone and the raised lots were also not mowed. This was in part because the Highway Department crew did not realize Mr. Brown was unavailable, and in part because the time the Highway Department crew has to mow is limited, often precluding them from trimming. It was agreed to revisit this subject prior to formulating the fiscal year 2020 budget.

Discussion on Mowing Prices

Mr. McCue stated that Fiscal Year 2019 is the third year of the three-year price quotes. In talking with Tom Copeland and Heath Chace, both felt they could most likely maintain the same prices through Fiscal Year 2020. Mr. McCue stated the work in all cemeteries was fine, and he recommended locking in the prices for the additional year. Mr. Desmarais noted that while the mowing is usually bid out every three years or so to demonstrate securing the best price, it does not need to be put out to bid because the overall prices are low enough. Consensus was to not bid out any work that could be kept at the same price for another year.

Discussion on Price Splits

Discussion was held briefly on the current split of lot prices, where \$500.00 is put into the perpetual care endowment and the balance is put into the sale-of-lots account, which can be drawn from. Options for changing the split will be considered at the next meeting.

Discussion on Land

Brief discussion was held on this subject. Mr. Desmarais speculated on possible sites already owned by the town. Mr. McCue noted some land in Assonet that he thought would be good. Overall, the aim would be to secure land now for the future, before all the land is developed or acquired for the State Forest. Mr. McCue recommended revisiting this item after Christmas, and requesting one of the selectmen attend a meeting.

Updated on Old Business or New Business

The following items were taken up under this heading:

- ♦ Mr. Desmarais will follow up with Crystal Springs School regarding making sure the Guilford Evans Burial Ground is mowed prior to Memorial Day.
- ♦ Mr. Desmarais will follow up with Churchill & Banks regarding the Capt. Job Terry Burial Ground and Mr. Copeland's ability to burn brush on the property.
- ♦ Mr. McCue reported one of the Assonet Boy Scouts is going to try and clean up the cemeteries at Stop & Shop as an Eagle Scout project. These cemeteries were previously cleaned up as an Eagle Scout project in 2004, but they have become overgrown again.
- ♦ Mr. Copeland is scheduled to finish the clean-up of the Nichols Cemetery over the winter.
- ♦ The Assonet Boy Scouts are supposed to try and pick up where Brian Dunning left off at Payne's Cove.
- ♦ All had viewed the results of the Eagle Scout project at the Plummer Burial Ground, which saw most of the fallen headstones stood up and secured. Some of the larger, heavier stones were left where they were for safety; Mr. McCue will ask Albanese Monuments to evaluate whether any of these remaining stones can be stood up safely.

Any Other Business Properly Before the Board

None.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque, seconded by Mr. Desmarais, to adjourn at 4:42 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Michael T. McCue, Chairman