

**Freetown Cemetery Commission**  
Minutes of the Wednesday, June 5, 2019 Meeting  
Town Hall — Assonet, Mass.

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2019 AUG 13 PM 2:50

*J. Brown*

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

**Call to order:** Mike McCue called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

### **Reorganization, Part II**

On motions made by Mr. Desmarais, seconded by Mrs. Levesque, the following appointments were voted unanimously:

- That Mr. McCue continue as Superintendent of Public Cemeteries through June 30, 2020.
- That Mr. McCue continue as single-signature bill payer and payroll authorizer through June 30, 2020.
- That Richard Brown continue as Assistant Superintendent for the Assonet Burying Ground through June 30, 2020.

### **Establishment of Goals**

Mr. McCue asked each member to come to the next meeting with an idea of goals they would like to accomplish for the next year. He noted that preliminary work on headstone repairs would be beginning June 6th.

### **Designation of Assignments**

Mr. McCue will make a list of a few cemeteries each member will be asked to check on periodically, particularly after mowing.

### **Assonet Burying Ground**

Consideration will be given to fixing up the old shed, either during the upcoming fiscal year (2020) or by laying the groundwork during that year and doing the actual work the following fiscal year (2021). Mr. Desmarais felt that repairs could be extensive and expensive given the shed's condition. All agreed that a new cement floor would be needed as the wooden floor is beyond repair. Discussion was held as to whether to apply for a demolition permit to get the ball rolling. Mr. McCue believed that where the Historical Commission has previously asked that the shed not be demolished, they should be asked to co-sponsor any articles seeking funds for the repair work. Further discussion will continue.

Discussion resumed on headstones in the Veterans Section; specifically, whether to require a headstone on each individual lot. It was agreed that the original intent was for each lot to have its own stone, but that this was never conveyed to people in writing, only in discussion. Mr. McCue clarified that if two people are using one lot (such as two cremations, or one traditional burial and one cremation) there would only be one stone, but that if a husband and wife are buried side-by-side it would leave one lot unmarked. It was noted this has already happened in two instances. All were concerned that the original intent of uniformity of appearance ("Arlington") would be lost if there were numerous unmarked lots as time progressed. The pros and cons of requiring a second stone were weighed, including the cost of the stone, which was considered outweighed by the fact that the lots were assigned for free.

After due consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, seconded by Mrs. Levesque, to amend the cemetery rules to include a requirement that each lot in the Veterans Section be individually marked. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Updates on Old Business**

- The Capt. Job Terry Burial Ground was completely cleaned out over the winter. Tom Copeland will work on keeping it in good order. There is a concern with one monument, where it looks like someone at some point long ago tried to tip it over. Due to its weight and inaccessibility, it may not be able to be repaired until the surrounding land is cleared for development.

- The Robinson Burying Ground will see work resume next winter.
- The Merrick Cemetery was cleaned out over the winter by the Boy Scouts. It was believed Stop & Shop would maintain it afterward, but to date they have not. Mr. Desmarais will contact them; if Stop & Shop will not maintain it, Mr. Copeland will be asked to look at it. The Terry Burial Ground remains untouched since 2004.
- The Nichols Cemetery cleanout was completed over the winter. Mr. Copeland will work on keeping it in good order.
- The remainder of the Payne's Cove Cemetery was cleaned out over the winter by the Boy Scouts. It is presently unknown if anyone is taking care of it for the spring.

**Meeting Adjourned**

A motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, seconded by Mrs. Levesque, to adjourn the meeting at 4:51 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

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