

**EAST HAVEN
OLD CEMETERY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 28, 2021**

A Regular Meeting of the Old Cemetery Board was held on Thursday January 28, 2021 via ZOOM at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of the following:

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm by Chairman Melanie Johnson. In attendance were Judy Ruggiero, Barbara Buonome, Marcia Federico, Arlene Hackbarth and Bob Sand.

2. Approval of Minutes

Judy Ruggiero stated 2 corrections from the December meeting minutes, 2nd paragraph 4th line down (s) in she typo and 2nd paragraph old business last line corrected as the word as not at. Barbara Buonome made a motion to accept minutes as corrected and Marcia Federico seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

3. Treasurer's Report

Judy Ruggiero stated she paid Bob Sand on December 14th \$125.00 for the wreath that was placed on the Old Cemetery Gate for Christmas. The balance in the checking is at \$15,200.45 Barbara Buonome made a motion to accept the report. Bob Sand seconds the motion. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

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4. Old Business

Judy Ruggiero states that on December 30th the town cleaned up the brush from that fallen tree by the bowl in the back. On December 5th Judy wrote a letter to Mr. Tuttle “Judy reads the letter to the board” (letter attached to minutes). Judy states that Mr. Tuttle then called her and he will do what is suggested in the spring. He was very happy to hear from Judy and will be in touch once he is in contact with East Lawn Cemetery. Mr. Tuttle does go to Florida in the winter so once he comes back he should be moving forward on this. Judy will touch back with Mr. Tuttle upon his return to touch upon getting in the suggestion of getting in touch with a State Archeologist. Melanie called Charlie Coyle to thank him for doing the clean-up work and to thank his crew. Bob Sand states he had a conversation with Melanie about the removal of the trees. The Hemmingway property line was cleared well but they did leave a lot of small tree branch cuttings – what they did was great but there is some residual. The huge tree that is leaning like a knee on the ground and hanging over the tomb stone they took that one out and the back corner as well, and the chain link fence does have some damage as well as the Indian Bowl area. Bob suggests that he would like to put a volunteers group together to do a clean-up in certain areas to give the landscaper a clean slate to start this summer. Bob would like to ask Charlie to put a dumpster in the area for the volunteers to put the debris in. This would be a spring time March clean-up. Melanie suggests just speaking with Bill Roberts at East Lawn to make sure the dumpster is not in the way. Judy asks Bob if he met with Fred regarding the clarification on his contract. Bob states that on Wed. Jan. 20th he called and spoke with Fred around 1:15 in the afternoon. Fred stated most of his equipment has been replaced and plans to be at the cemetery in mid-March for spring clean-up. Bob told Fred he would be calling him at the end of February to confirm and meet with him to review his contract at that time, because of his business fire, Bob is trying to work a relationship with him to get Fred to do what he supposed to do and give him a clean slate to work on the grounds with the clean-up being done. Judy Ruggiero makes a motion for Bob Sand to formulate a plan to get a volunteer group together for the clean-up. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

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5. New Business

Judy Ruggiero received a phone call from Joe Deko on January 10th to extend her term another 2 years. Marcia Federico, Melanie Johnson, and Barbara Buonome received the same call. Once the letter is received they are to call the Town Hall to be sworn in. Bob Sand asks regarding the Christmas wreath and ones on the gate is this a good time for them to be removed? The board agrees to leave them up until the middle of February as they still look so good and will discuss taking them down during the February meeting. The board also agrees to hold on to the red bows as long as the weather has not damaged them. Bob Sand states that in the future the stones that have been broken, fallen or sunk into the ground is there a plan to dig those out to secure them so they are not run over by lawn mowers or over grown by grass. Judy Ruggiero states that when the mason comes down he chooses the ones to be repaired based on what you said, but to do them on our own there was never a plan and because it is brownstone it may break apart, and if you pick them up you have to have a place to put them such as a foundation they will fall over again. Melanie states that we have to seriously look into getting the stones out of the ground by a professional and the town should be writing grants for down the road, there is a lot of money out there and grants available. Bob Sand asks Judy if she still has companies that have done this work in the past. Judy states yes, it's only one business. Judy gives the history of other companies she has worked with that were not reliable. Judy states there is one company we have been working with that is reliable and guarantees his work. Judy will have that information ready for the February meeting. Melanie discusses electing a full time permanent chairperson other than her she is not interested in remaining the chairperson. The election for the board will be tabled until the February meeting.

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6. Adjournment

Melanie Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 pm. Marcia Federico seconded. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Temple Smith, OCB Clerk