



TOWN CLERK

**EAST HAVEN OLD CEMETERY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 31, 2022**

The East Haven Old Cemetery Board held a regular meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, March 31, 2022 virtually and transacted the following:

Chairperson Melanie Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

Present: Chairperson Melanie Johnson, Commissioners Robert Sand, and Barbara Buonome, Marcia Federico, Arlene Hackbarth and Judy Ruggiero.

Approval of Minutes:

Chairperson Johnson asked if all in attendance had received and read the minutes from the January 27, 2022 regular meeting, all had. It was asked if there were any corrections, omissions or questions, there were none.

Chairperson Johnson asked for a motion to be made to accept the minutes from the February 24, 2022 meeting as written. Commissioner Sand made a motion to accept minutes as written; Commissioner Buonome seconded motion to accept minutes as written. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Minutes from regular February 24, 2022 meeting were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report:

Commissioner Ruggiero stated there was not any activity so the balance in the bank account remained at \$15,040.81. Chairperson Johnson asked if there were any questions, hearing none, Chairperson Johnson asked for a motion to be made to accept the treasurer's report as read. Commissioner Sand made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as read; Commissioner Buonome seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report as read. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Treasurer's Report accepted as read.

Old Business:

Chairperson Johnson started to discuss the landscaping contract. Commissioner Sand stated the topic should be tabled and discussed during an executive session meeting. Commissioner Ruggiero concurred. It was stated historically any discussions of personnel and/or contracts should be held in executive session so as to be able to discuss salary and cost. Commissioner Sand made a motion to table discussion of the landscaping contract and to set up a special meeting consisting of an executive session to discuss contract; Commissioner Ruggiero seconded the motion to table discussion of the landscaping contract and to set up a special meeting consisting of an executive session to discuss contract. All in favor, none opposed, no abstention, motion carried. A special meeting consisting of an executive session will be arranged.

Commissioner Ruggiero gave an update on the 5 headstones on which restoration work had begun. Benny contacted her and stated all work on the 5 headstones had been completed. Benny will send Commissioner Ruggiero an invoice for work completed. Once Commissioner Sand inspects the completed headstones and states all work completed satisfactorily, Commissioner Ruggiero will pay invoice.

Commissioner Ruggiero stated that in her discussion with Benny, he told her there is another headstone that is in desperate need of repair and restoration. Commissioner Ruggiero asked if the Board thought it would be all right to use money in bank account to repair and restore 5 more headstones. Commissioner Hackbarth asked the cost, Commissioner Ruggiero stated it would be \$1,000.00 total for 5 headstones. Commissioner Sand made a motion to authorize Commissioner Ruggiero to ask Benny to repair and restore 5 more headstones; Commissioner Buonome seconded the motion to authorize Commissioner Ruggiero to ask Benny to repair and restore 5 more headstones. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried.

Commissioner Ruggiero stated she had driven by the Old Cemetery and saw a black sedan in the Cemetery that was not supposed to be there. She told Chairperson Johnson who stated both Commissioner Hackbarth and she had seen the same car in the cemetery. Commissioner Ruggiero called Benny who told her it was his father's car and that it would not happen again. Benny parked his van that has his business name on it in the cemetery when doing work that is allowable, but private vehicles aren't allowed. Commissioners concerned others will feel can drive around Old Cemetery and will cause damage.

Commissioner Ruggiero asked if any news concerning curbing on River Street side. Chairperson Johnson stated Public Works Superintendent Charlie Coyle stated it would happen at some point. He also stated the curbing would have to be granite and it would be dug into the ground because if asphalt is used, cars can just drive over it.

Chairperson Johnson stated Superintendent Coyle has been looking into the bamboo situation but has not gotten back to her with any sort of answer.

New Business:

In a recent discussion with Finance Director James Keeley concerning increasing the yearly stipend the Old Cemetery Board received from the Town, Mr. Keeley told Commissioner Ruggiero if the Board would like an increase, to do so in writing to be received by the Finance Director no later than December 2022 for budget 2023. The Board will re-visit this topic when it is closer to December.

Chairperson Johnson removed items from urns. Urns need to be stabilized and she asked Commissioner Sand if he would do so. Commissioner Sand will work on stabilizing the urns and asked for approval to spend up to \$25.00 for stone to put under urns. Commissioner Sand asked if there was a color preference for the stone, all indicated they trusted his judgment and to just pick out something similar in color to the urns.

Commissioner Hackbarth made a motion to approve the spending of up to \$25.00 for stone to stabilize the urns; Commissioner Ruggiero seconded the motion to approve the spending of up to \$25.00 for stone to stabilize the urns. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried.

Chairperson Johnson stated Garden of Eden Landscaping had started to remove the leaves left from the winter but didn't finish. Many parts of Cemetery were not done, what was done showed dead grass and patches of dirt. Must make sure going forward, all leaves are picked up before snow falls.

Re-organization of Officers:

Chair – Robert Sand
Vice Chair – Marcia Federico
Treasurer – Judy Ruggiero

All voted in unanimously, there were no other candidates for any position.

Commissioner Sand made a motion to nominate Stacy Gravino to continue as Clerk; Commissioner Buonomo seconded motion to nominate Stacy Gravino to continue as Clerk. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried.

Chairperson Johnson asked if there was any other new business, hearing none she asked for a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Sand made a motion to adjourn meeting; Commissioner Federico seconded motion to adjourn meeting. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy Gravino, Clerk