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EAST HAVEN OLD CEMETERY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES APRIL 28, 2022

The East Haven Old Cemetery Board held a regular meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, April 28, 2022 virtually and transacted the following:

Chairperson Robert Sand called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Chairperson Sand asked if all in attendance had received and read the minutes from the March 31, 2022 regular meeting, all had. It was asked if there were any corrections, omissions or questions. Commissioner Ruggiero stated in the second paragraph on last page of minutes, it should read an invoice not and invoice. Chairperson Sand asked if there were any other corrections. Hearing none, Chairperson Sand asked for a motion to be made to accept the minutes from the March 31, 2022 regular meeting with the one correction stated. Commissioner Federico made a motion to accept minutes with the one correction stated; Commissioner Buonome seconded motion to accept minutes with the one correction stated. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Minutes from regular March 31, 2022 meeting were accepted with the one correction stated.

Chairperson Sand asked if all in attendance had received and read the minutes from the April 7, 2022 special meeting all had. It was asked if there were any corrections, omissions or questions. Hearing none, Chairperson Sand asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the April 7, 2022 special meeting as presented. Commissioner Hackbarth made a motion to accept

the April 7, 2022 special meeting minutes as presented; Commissioner Ruggiero seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Minutes from the April 7, 2022 special meeting accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report:

Commissioner Ruggiero stated she paid Benny \$1,000.00 on April 9 and another \$1,000.00 on April 12 for repair and restoration of 10 stones. Commissioner Ruggiero paid Chairperson Sand \$16.94 for the purchase of pea stones that were used to stabilize the urns at the front gate of the Old Cemetery. Commissioner Ruggiero stated current balance in account stands at \$13,023.87. Chairperson Sand asked if there were any questions, hearing none, Chairperson Sand asked for a motion to be made to accept the treasurer's report as read.

Commissioner Hackbarth made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as read; Commissioner Federico 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.

Ongoing Project Reports:

Landscaping:

Chairperson Sand stated the leaves on the Hemingway Avenue side were not picked up, merely blown into the upper part of the Indian Bowl. Chairperson Sand had a discussion with Fred concerning picking up the leaves. Fred indicated that discussion was for next year, not this year as he had already taken the vacuum off his truck and it was difficult to put back on for one leaf pickup. Chairperson Sand offered Fred an extra \$200.00 to remove leaves, but he still won't do it. The Board will not pay Fred anything just for moving the leaves. The grass had been cut and limbs removed. Chairperson Sand stated the leaves would have to be removed by other people, bagged and put out on curb for Public Works to take.

Commissioners Federico, Ruggiero, Buonome, and Chairperson Sand had driven by the Old Cemetery and all agree the Cemetery is looking pretty good considering the overall lack of care by the landscaper.

Commissioners Hackbarth and Johnson purchased and planted the pansies in the urns by the front gate. The cost was approximately \$15.00. Prior to planting Commissioner Ruggiero's granddaughter Riley cleaned the urns. It was thought the urns would need to be painted but after cleaning, the color fit with the Old Cemetery.

Chairperson Sand asked Commissioner Hackbarth to look into planting more bulbs along the fence as some flowers have returned while others haven't. Commissioner Hackbarth believed

the bulbs were donated in 2002 when the planting took place. Commissioner Buonome stated the bulbs wouldn't be planted until the fall so there will be plenty of time to make a plan.

The landscaping contract was still in limbo due to the sudden retirement of Candace Criscuolo in the Finance Department. She was the liaison between the Town, the Board, and the landscaper. It was discovered none of the changes had been incorporated into the contract. Chairperson Sand left a message with the changes for Finance Director James Keeley.

Headstone Repair and Restorations:

Commissioner Ruggiero reported Benny Sr. was planning on retiring. Commissioner Ruggiero told Benny Jr. his father could not retire. Benny Sr. responded he would work for the Old Cemetery for as long as he was needed.

Chairperson Sand moved the 5 stakes from the completed stones to 5 new stones in need of repair.

He asked for a motion to have Commissioner Ruggiero contact Benny Jr. to start work on the 5 new stones. Commissioner Buonome made a motion to have Commissioner Ruggiero contact Benny Jr. to start work on the 5 new stones; Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Commissioner Ruggiero will contact Benny Jr. to start the work on the 5 new stones.

Chairperson Sand stated there are 25 stones that are lying on the ground; the lawn mower going over them could damage over time. He thought perhaps the stone should be propped up or moved. Discussion took place. It was decided Commissioner Ruggiero would reach out to Benny Jr. to ask him what he thought could be done to protect stones until restoration project started. Perhaps the next project should be those 25 stones, do 5 stones at a time until all stones repaired and restored.

Bamboo:

The bamboo is creeping up the hillside. Chairperson Sand will go to Planning & Zoning to find out what the Town's responsibility is concerning bamboo. Commissioner Johnson had not heard back from Public Works Superintendent Charles Coyle concerning the bamboo.

Retention Wall and Curbing:

Chairperson Sand contacted the Mayor's Office concerning the curbing and retention wall. A meeting was set up for Monday, May 2, 2022 at 3:00 pm in the Mayor's Office. Chairperson Sand invited Commissioners Hackbarth and Johnson to attend meeting as well.

Old Business:

A discussion concerning trying to map out the graves of veterans took place. Chairperson Sand asked Commissioner Hackbarth about purchasing flags for the fence, Commissioner Hackbarth stated if the Chairperson couldn't find any online, then she would purchase them at Ocean State Job Lot. Chairperson Sand will look again online. The flags go up a week or 2 before Memorial Day.

New Business:

Chairperson Sand asked Commissioner Ruggiero about painting the fence. Both the gates and the fence have moss growing on them that needs to be removed. Commissioners Johnson and Hackbarth using a plastic brush were able to scrap off the moss in a section without damaging the paint. Commissioner Ruggiero stated the fence had never been painted; it was the gates that were painted. She had in her files the products used for the gates and will supply at next meeting. It cost \$1,800.00 in 2011 to sand blast and paint the 4 gates and archway. Commissioner Hackbarth asked Commissioner Ruggiero what the name of the company that did the work; Commissioner Ruggiero responded Rockfall Northeast LLC was the company.

Chairperson Sand asked if there was any other business, there was none. Since there was no other business before the Board, he asked for a motion to adjourn meeting. Commissioner Ruggiero made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Federico seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Gravino, Clerk