

Lisa Balter
TOWN CLERK

EAST HAVEN OLD CEMETERY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MAY 26, 2022

The East Haven Old Cemetery Board held a regular meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, May 26, 2022 virtually and transacted the following:

Acting Chairperson Marcia Federico called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

Present: Commissioners Melanie Johnson, Arlene Hackbarth, Judy Ruggiero, and Acting Chairperson Marcia Federico.

Absent: Chairperson Robert Sand, Commissioner Barbara Buonome.

Approval of Minutes:

Acting Chairperson Federico asked if all in attendance had received and read the minutes from the April 28, 2022 regular meeting, all had. It was asked if there were any corrections, omissions or questions.

Commissioner Ruggiero stated in Treasurer's Report it should read, "Commissioner Ruggiero paid Benny \$1,000.00 on April 9, 2022 for restoration of 5 stones, and, another \$1,000.00 on April 12, 2022 for restoration of additional 5 stones." Commissioner Ruggiero stated that under Headstone Repair and Restorations, Benny's father is not Benny Sr.; his actual name is Bedri Babasuli. Also, Commissioner Ruggiero stated the correct spelling of her great-granddaughter's first name is Rylee not Riley.

Acting Chairperson Federico asked if there were any other corrections. Hearing none, Acting Chairperson Federico asked for a motion to be made to accept the minutes from the April 28, 2022 regular meeting with the three corrections stated. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to accept minutes with the three corrections stated; Commissioner Hackbarth seconded motion to accept minutes with the three corrections stated. All in favor, none opposed, no

abstentions, motion carried. Minutes from regular April 28, 2022 meeting were accepted with the three corrections stated.

Treasurer's Report:

Commissioner Ruggiero stated she paid Fred \$775 on May 4, 2022 for spring-cleaning which occurred in March and in April. Commissioner Ruggiero stated she paid Benny, Jr. \$2,000.00 on May 25, 2022 for the restoration of 10 stones that occurred in May 2022. Balance in account after paying these invoices was \$9,248.87.

Acting Chairperson Federico asked if there were any questions, concerns, corrections with the treasurer's report as read. Hearing none, Acting Chairperson Federico asked for a motion to accept treasurer's report as read. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to accept treasurer's report as read; Commissioner Hackbarth seconded the motion to accept treasurer's report as read. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Treasurer's Report accepted as read.

Ongoing Project Reports:

Landscaping:

It was stated Fred had not signed the contract yet. Chairperson Sand had texted Fred but hadn't received a response.

Commissioner Ruggiero asked Commissioner Hackbarth how the pansies were doing and how much did the plants cost. Commissioner Hackbarth stated the pansies were doing just fine and the plants cost approximately \$15.00 and she will turn in the receipt.

Acting Chairperson Federico stated she had driven by the Old Cemetery on Sunday, May 22, 2022 to find the front headstones were not cleaned by landscaper. She said the Indian Bowl and rest of Cemetery looked clean. She asked Commissioners Hackbarth and Johnson how the Cemetery looked when they were putting the flags on the fence on Tuesday, May 24, 2022. Both Commissioners stated everything was cleaned and cut, so landscaper must have come back to finish work. Commissioner Hackbarth stated she donated the flags that were put up.

Headstone Repair and Restorations:

Commissioner Ruggiero stated Benny Jr. contacted her to let her know his father, Bedri, would be going abroad for 6 weeks so if the Commission wanted more stones restored, please let him

know. It was reported Chairperson Sand held a phone vote to decide upon restoring 10 more stones before Bedri leaves for vacation. Restoration of 10 stones was completed in May 2022.

Commissioner Ruggiero discussed with Benny Jr. concerning what to do concerning the 25 stones that are lying on the ground. It was decided that the stones would be safer as is instead of propping up until Commission was ready to restore them.

Commissioner Ruggiero stated she received a call from Anthony Leibengood who is a member of a community group that would like to go in and clean headstones in Old Cemetery. Commissioner Ruggiero politely told person no thank you and that the Commission is in charge of cleaning headstones and they have a person performing such duties.

Bamboo:

Commissioner Johnson stated she had spoken with Chairperson Sand about the bamboo, and he stated he had left a message for Zoning Officer Joseph Budrow but had not heard back.

Retention Wall and Curbing: See New Business.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Commissioner Johnson stated Chairperson Sand, Commissioner Hackbarth and herself met with Mayor Joseph Carfora and Public Works Superintendent Charles Coyle concerning the retention wall, curbing and bamboo. Meeting went well but nothing decided. Commissioner Johnson stated she told the Mayor that the Old Cemetery was deemed a park in the 1800's by the National Park Service so could some of the ARPA money be used for curbing and retention wall. She asked this since the Mayor had been using ARPA money for other parks and town green. Mayor was confused about the Old Cemetery being deemed a park and stated he would look into it.

Commissioner Johnson stated she was on the Town website, clicked on the Old Cemetery Board website link and was disappointed by what she found. Commissioner Johnson at the behest of Tina Hedley, Executive Secretary to the Mayor and the person who manages pages on the website, sent Tina information to put on page. What Commissioner Johnson found was

outdated information; none of which she provided Tina and what was provided was put onto the page in a haphazard fashion. The second page of the brochure discussing the Old Cemetery and asking for donations was upside down. Commissioner Johnson stated Chairperson Sand would look into this, and ask if the Commission could set up their own page separate from the Town that he would handle.

Acting Chairperson Federico asked if there was any other business that needed to be transacted, hearing none, she asked for a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Ruggiero made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion to adjourn. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Gravino, Clerk