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**EAST HAVEN OLD CEMETERY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 30 2022**

The East Haven Old Cemetery Board held a regular meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, June 30, 2022 virtually and transacted the following:

Chairperson Robert Sand called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Chairperson Sand asked if all in attendance had received and read the minutes from the May 26, 2022 regular meeting all had. It was asked if there were any corrections, omissions or questions.

Commissioner Ruggiero stated in her remarks concerning her conversation with Anthony Leibengood, she would like the minutes to reflect the following, "every stone is different and requires different solutions to be used to clean them. Anthony understood this and would tell his group they could not go in and clean".

Commissioner Ruggiero also stated it should read the following concerning when Bedri would be leaving, "Bedri would be leaving on June 6 and return in late fall".

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 May 26, 2022 regular meeting with the two corrections stated. Commissioner Federico made a motion to accept minutes with the two corrections stated; Commissioner Buonome seconded motion to accept minutes with the two corrections stated. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Minutes from regular May 26, 2022 meeting were accepted with the two corrections stated.

Treasurer's Report:

Commissioner Ruggiero stated she paid Fred \$770.00 on June 10, 2022 for cutting which occurred on May 6, 2022 and May 23, 2022 respectively. Commissioner Ruggiero stated she paid Bedri. \$2,000.00 on June 4, 2022 for the restoration of the second set of 10 stones, Commissioner Ruggiero also paid Commissioner Hackbarth \$15.95 for the purchase of the pansies which were planted in the urns by the gates. Balance in account after paying these invoices was \$6,457.93.

Chairperson Sand asked if there were any questions, concerns, corrections with the treasurer's report as read. Hearing none, Chairperson Sand 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:

Grass had been cut recently but Fred had not been letting Chairperson Sand know when landscaping had been done.

Chairperson Sand let Commission know that the Town of East Purchasing Agent, Dawn Cummings had contacted him to let him know Fred signed the contract and returned it to her. Chairperson Sand went to Town Hall and signed his portion of the contract. Chairperson Sand asked since the contract runs calendar year and it was already June, what would be done come December since in the contract it can be extended another year. Ms. Cummings stated the Commission could extend the contract if they chose to as long as all of the stipulated events have been met and if Fred responded in the positive. If not, then the Commission can go out to bid for a new landscaper and she would help facilitate this process.

Headstone Repair and Restorations:

Commissioner Johnson asked Commissioner Ruggiero if she had sent a letter of receipt of \$1,000.00 donation to Historical Society, if not, could she please do so for the Historical Society's Treasurer's records.

Commissioner Ruggiero stated 10 more headstones were restored prior to Bedri's vacation.

Chairperson Sand stated he used a wire to dig around the headstones laying on ground and propped them up for Bedri. In doing so he found a headstone that was completely sunken into the ground about six inches down. The name on headstone was Samuil Bradley; there was not a date on the stone though. Chairperson Sand asked Commissioner Johnson to add headstone to master list.

Bamboo:

Chairperson Sand spoke to Town of East Haven Zoning Officer Joseph Budrow concerning the bamboo. Mr. Budrow stated he spoke with land use attorney Jennifer Coppolla and stated a letter will be sent to homeowner who had one week to respond. If no response, matter will be turned over to the State of Connecticut. A copy of this letter and all other correspondence will be put into the 100 River Street (Old Cemetery) file in the Zoning office.

Retention Wall and Curbing: No Report for either item.

Old Business:

Fence Painting: No Report

Commissioners Johnson and Hackbarth cleaned the lichen off of the fence and gate and then put a little orange oil onto it to get remainder of lichen off.

Boy Scout/Eagle Scout Project: Chairperson Sand contacted Ned Taylor leader of Boy Scouts in Town concerning several projects such as creating a map of cemetery and a bird's eye view of cemetery. Mr. Taylor will discuss these projects at the next Boy Scout meeting and contact Chairperson Sand with any results.

Commissioner Hackbarth stated Chairperson Sand should contact Cindy at the Hagaman Memorial Library as she could help finding out how to capture a bird's eye view of cemetery.

Bulb Purchase: No Report. Chairperson Sand did ask if any Commission member was interested in purchasing bulbs in fall. Will revisit this topic at next meeting.

New Business:

Chairperson Sand asked how the other Commission members felt about returning to in person meetings. Commissioners Johnson and Ruggiero wanted to keep as zoom; Commissioners Buonome, Federico, Hackbarth stated either in person or zoom would be fine with them. It was mentioned during winter months, zoom would be preferable, as bad weather would cause in person cancellations. One possibility would be to hold zoom meetings from December to April. Topic would be discussed again in future.

Chairperson Sand, having read the comments from last meeting concerning the Town's website and lack of information on it concerning Old Cemetery Board, discussed creating the Board's own website and what it would entail, including a \$300.00 a year fee. Chairperson Sand stated he would gladly take on project as no other member expressed an interest, and will ask the Mayor's office if the Board can do this, as they are a Town entity.

Commissioner Ruggiero asked since the next day is July 1, 2022, if the Board should have the Clerk of the Commission write a letter to Finance Director asking for the \$6,300.00 stipend for fiscal year 2022-2023.

Chairperson asked for a motion to direct the Clerk of the Commission to send a letter the Finance Director asking for the stipend. Commissioner Ruggiero made a motion directing the Clerk of the Commission to send a letter to Finance Director asking for the stipend; Commissioner Bionomic seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Clerk will send a letter to Finance Director asking for stipend.

Commissioner Johnson stated Steve Delucia asked if he could use metal detector in the Old Cemetery. Members felt cemetery is a historical site and did not want someone digging around in it. Commissioner Buonome stated perhaps a member of the Board could accompany Mr. Delucia as he used the metal detector and go through whatever he found in case it had historical significance to the Old Cemetery, then that would be fine. Will discuss further at next meeting.

Chairperson Sand asked if there was any other business that needed to be transacted, hearing none, he 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 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Gravino, Clerk