

**EAST HAVEN OLD CEMETERY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 17, 2022**

The East Haven Old Cemetery Board held a regular meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, November 17, 2022 virtually and transacted the following:

Chairperson Robert Sand called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Chairperson Sand asked if all in attendance had received and read the minutes from the October 27, 2022 regular meeting and all had. It was asked if there were any corrections, omissions or questions. One correction was needed according to Commissioner Ruggiero; minutes should read Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro instead of Congressperson Rosa DeLauro.

Chairman Sand asked for a motion to accept the October 27, 2022 regular meeting minutes with the one correction noted.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to accept minutes with the one correction noted. Commissioner Buonome seconded the motion to accept minutes with the one correction noted. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Minutes from October 27, 2022 regular meeting were accepted with the one correction.

Treasurer's Report:

Commissioner Ruggiero stated she paid Fred from Garden of Eden Landscaping \$775.00 on November 8, 2022 for cuttings that occurred on October 19, 2022 and October 27, 2022 respectively. Commissioner Ruggiero stated she received a \$10.00 donation to the Old Cemetery Board from Jean Quartiano. Commissioner Ruggiero stated the end balance in the checking account was \$8,871.22.

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 Hackbarth made a motion to accept treasurer's report as read. Commissioner Johnson 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:

Chairperson Sand stated he went to the Old Cemetery to see if the public works department had finished removing the branch on the pine tree. They hadn't as of this meeting. Chairperson Sand will contact Public Works Superintendent Charles Coyle concerning a timeframe for finishing the job and for removal of tree limbs in the back of the cemetery. Chairperson Sand would like the public works department to perform the work when the ground has frozen over so as to limit the damage to grass and soil as much as possible. He will suggest this to Mr. Coyle.

Chairperson Sand noticed the last time he was at the Old Cemetery an urn that was located just inside the entrance gate was broken. Chairperson Sand will contact Fred from Garden of Eden Landscaping concerning the broken urn and will let the Board know of the outcome of that discussion at the December 29, 2022 regular meeting.

Bamboo:

Chairperson Sand stated no additional growth on hillside. This item will be left on agenda until Spring 2023.

Retention Wall and Curbing:

Chairperson Sand had a meeting with Mayor Carfora on November 4, 2022 to discuss these issues. After the meeting, Chairperson Sand went to the cemetery to inspect the grounds. Upon arrival, he saw Mayor Carfora and Public Work Superintendent Charles Coyle walking through the cemetery. Mr. Carfora and Mr. Coyle approached Chairperson Sand and further discussion took place concerning the curbing. Mayor Carfora stated asphalt curbing would be put in and soil would be backfilled from curb to fence and suggested the public works department plant bushes between the curbing and the fence to further prevent people from parking on the cemetery property. As of this meeting, the curbing was put in, soil had been backfilled, and grass seed put down with straw on top of it to prevent loss of the grass seeds. Potholes were filled and the depression in the grass made from the vehicles removing part of the pine tree branch was gone.

Mayor Carfora also offered to have the public works department put pavers in at the entrance of the Old Cemetery. Mayor Carfora was at the time of this meeting still investigating what to do about the retention wall so there was not a report concerning it.

Commissioner Hackbarth asked if the public works department would be putting in snow guide poles to prevent the destruction of the new curbing. Chairperson Sand did not know but he would contact Mr. Coyle and ask that it be done.

Bulb Planting:

Commissioners Hackbarth and Johnson along with Chairperson Sand planted 100 daffodil bulbs, 50 bulbs to the left of the entrance and 50 bulbs to the right of the entrance to Old Cemetery. Chairperson Sand was going to put mulch down to help protect the bulbs but didn't because of the new curbing and soil backfilling. Chairperson Sand was concerned the bulbs were covered over too much. Commissioner Johnson stated the bulbs were only planted six inches down and would be able to break through the soil in the spring. Commissioner Ruggiero would like to reimburse Chairperson Sand for the cost of mulch. Chairperson Sand stated he hadn't put the mulch down as of yet due to the soil backfill. He stated he would donate the mulch since public works put in the curb and backfilled.

Old Cemetery Flyer:

Sub-Committee members Buonome, Federico and Ruggiero met and suggested including the story told by former Chairperson William Jackson, now deceased, of his seeing a ghost on the grounds of the Old Cemetery. They decided to not include pictures of the Indian Bowl, as the pictures did not do justice to the depth of it. The rough draft was sent to Commissioner Buonome's daughter, Cheryl Panzo, for review and once it was corrected and returned to sub-committee it would be shared with the full Commission. A discussion occurred as to length of time necessary to complete the first draft with Chairperson Sand suggesting 6 months. Sub-committee members in attendance agreed this was an adequate time frame.

Commissioner Johnson suggested that in the interim copies of the old flyer should be made and displayed at Town Hall to see if there would be interest in the Old Cemetery. Discussion occurred with Chairperson Sand, Commissioners Johnson and Hackbarth stating it was a good idea. Commissioner Ruggiero stated no and Commissioner Buonome had mixed feelings concerning putting out copies of the old flyer. Ultimately, Chairperson Sand asked Commissioner Johnson to make 10 copies of the flyer and display them at Town Hall to gauge the interest in the Old Cemetery. Chairperson Sand asked Commissioner Johnson to track how quickly the flyers were taken and report back to the Commission at the December 29, 2022 regular meeting.

Old Business:

Due to the weather forecast of heavy rain and wind on November 12, 2022, Chairperson Sand removed the American Flags on November 11, 2022. He will give the flags to Commissioner Ruggiero who will bring the flags to American Legion for proper destruction.

New Business:

Old Cemetery Board Clerk, Stacy Gravino, had included with the meeting agenda and minutes, the schedule of the 2023 meeting dates for the Old Cemetery Board. Chairperson Sand and Commissioner Ruggiero both checked the dates for accuracy.

Chairperson Sand asked the Board if any of the dates needed to be changed, adjusted, corrected or altered, Commissioners responded all dates were correct.

Hearing that all 2023 meeting dates were correct, Chairperson Sand asked for a motion to approve 2023 meeting dates schedule as provided.

Commissioner Ruggiero made a motion to accept the 2023 meeting dates schedule as presented. Commissioner Buonome seconded the motion to accept the 2023 meeting dates schedule as presented. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. The 2023 meeting dates schedule accepted as presented.

Commissioner Ruggiero asked if anyone had pictures of the back of the Old Cemetery. She asked this because when she went to inspect the Fred's landscaping of the Old Cemetery versus East Lawn Cemetery to make sure he was taking equally good care of both cemeteries, Commissioner Ruggiero noticed some silver poles missing from the back of the Old Cemetery. She wanted physical proof before anyone spoke with Mr. Roberts, caretaker at East Lawn Cemetery. Commissioner Johnson stated she might have a few pictures and would look for them. Chairperson Sand stated he would speak with Mr. Roberts and would like the pictures before doing so.

Chairperson Sand asked if there was any other business to be brought forth, 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 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Gravino, Clerk