

Lisa Balter
TOWN CLERK

**EAST HAVEN OLD CEMETERY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 23, 2023**

The East Haven Old Cemetery Board held a regular meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 23, 2023 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, James Longo, Judy Ruggiero, Barbara Buonome, Chairperson Robert Sand and Vice Chairperson Marcia Federico.

Approval of Minutes:

Chairperson Sand asked if all in attendance had received and read the minutes from the January 26, 2023 regular meeting and all had. Chairperson Sand asked if there were any corrections, omissions or questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Sand asked for a motion to accept the January 26, 2023 regular meeting minutes as submitted.

Commissioner Buonome made a motion to accept the January 26, 2023 regular meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Ruggiero seconded the motion to accept the January 26, 2023 regular meeting minutes as submitted.

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Minutes from January 26, 2023 regular meeting were accepted as submitted.

Chairperson Sand asked if all in attendance had received and read the minutes from the February 2, 2023 special meeting and all had. Chairperson Sand asked if there were any corrections, omissions or questions.

Hearing none, Chairperson Sand asked for a motion to accept the February 2, 2023 special meeting minutes as submitted.

Commissioner Hackbarth made a motion to accept the February 2, 2023 special meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Buonome seconded the motion to accept the February 2, 2023 special meeting minutes as submitted.

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Minutes from February 2, 2023 special meeting were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report:

Commissioner Ruggiero stated there was no activity on the account. Commissioner Ruggiero stated the end balance in the checking account was \$7,708.72.

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 Buonome 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 there was no movement concerning the contract with Garden of Eden Landscaping since Town of East Haven Purchasing Agent Dawn Cummings had not contacted Fred from Garden of Eden Landscaping.

Chairperson Sand asked permission from the Board to allow Ms. Cummings to contact Fred from Garden of Eden Landscaping to offer him a one-year contract extension with an increase to stipend of \$400.00. All members were in agreement to allow Ms. Cummings to contact Fred.

Chairperson Sand asked Commissioner Ruggiero to contact Ms. Cummings and let Ms. Cummings know the Board would like Ms. Cummings to contact Fred and make offer of one-year contract extension with an increase to stipend of \$400.00.

Chairperson Sand asked Commissioner Ruggiero to contact Benny to see if he had returned to the State yet, and if his health is satisfactory, would he be willing to restore more headstones when funding was available. Commissioner Ruggiero stated she would reach out to Benny.

Chairperson Sand asked how the greenery in the urns was holding up. Commissioners Hackbarth and Johnson stated there were a few dead pieces but overall the urns still looked good. They stated they would remove the dead pieces and rearrange what was left and leave the greenery in the urns for another month. Commissioner Johnson stated she would add more pieces of holly if necessary. Chairperson Sand asked Commissioners Hackbarth and Johnson to look to see if any of the daffodil bulbs planted in the fall have started to grow yet while they were attending to the urns.

Bamboo:

No Report. This item will be left on agenda until Spring 2023.

Retention Wall and Curbing:

No Report concerning retention wall.

Commissioner Johnson stated she heard from a third party that supposedly Economic Development Director Michelle Benivegna was in the process of writing a grant for the retention wall using the information supplied by the members of the Old Cemetery Board. Ms. Benivegna had not reached out to any members concerning a grant as of yet.

Chairperson Sand stated the curbing was holding up well, as were the reflector poles. He stated he would speak to Public Works Superintendent Charles Coyle in the spring concerning the pavers for the front entrance as well as the shrubbery between the curb and the fence. Commissioner Johnson stated she had spoken to Mr. Coyle who stated the shrubbery would be planted in the spring.

Old Cemetery Flyer:

The subcommittee had not had the chance to meet. Commissioner Johnson indicated she had recently left 10 more copies of the old flyer at Town Hall, with 4 having been taken as of Tuesday, February 24, 2023. Commissioner Johnson stated she also left 5 copies at the Town Library.

Chairperson Sand asked if any discussion of type, color and weight of paper that would be used had taken place once flyer was ready to be copied. There had not been that discussion yet but Vice - Chairperson Federico stated she would go to Staples and report to subcommittee available paper styles.

Chairperson Sand asked if June was still an achievable time frame, all agreed it was.

Old Business:

Commissioner Ruggiero stated she spoke to Town of East Haven Purchasing Agent Dawn Cummings concerning the broken metal poles. Commissioner Ruggiero explained to Ms. Cummings the poles were put up by the Town of East Haven and were used to as a way to separate the Town owned Old Cemetery property from the privately owned East Lawn Cemetery. The poles were put in place to prevent East Lawn Cemetery from encroaching upon the Old Cemetery property. Ms. Cummings stated the Old Cemetery Board would need to speak with Mr. Coyle from Public Works to which Commissioner Ruggiero replied, "Mr. Coyle was not helpful at all". Ms. Cummings understood and stated she would speak with Mayor Carfora directly concerning this issue and let Commissioner Ruggiero know the outcome. Commissioner Ruggiero had not heard back from Ms. Cummings at the time of this meeting. Commissioner Ruggiero had reached out several times by phone but hadn't received a call back. Commissioner Ruggiero stated she would give it a few more days and then try again. Chairperson Sand stated he would contact Ms. Cummings and asked her to meet Commissioner Ruggiero and himself at the Old Cemetery to explain the issue.

New Business:

Chairperson Sand asked if anyone would be interested in serving as Chair, Vice Chair, or Treasurer. It was indicated by the members that the current makeup of Robert Sand as Chair, Marcia Federico as Vice-Chair and Judy Ruggiero as Treasurer was working well and should stay on for another year.

Since no one stepped forward to seek nomination to an officer position and the members of the Board indicated the current makeup of Robert Sand as Chair, Marcia Federico as Vice-Chair and Judy Ruggiero as Treasurer was working well, Chairperson Sand asked for a motion to accept slate of Officers as stated.

Commissioner Hackbarth made a motion to accept slate of Officers as stated. Commissioner Buonome seconded the motion to accept slate of Officers as stated.

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Slate of Officers accepted as stated.

Chairperson Sand asked for a motion to re-appoint Stacy Gravino as Clerk of the Old Cemetery Board.

Commissioner Ruggiero made a motion to re-appoint Stacy Gravino as Clerk of the Old Cemetery Board. Commissioner Buonome seconded the motion to re-appoint Stacy Gravino as Clerk of the Old Cemetery Board.

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Stacy Gravino re-appointed as Clerk of the Old Cemetery Board.

Chairperson Sand asked if there was any other New Business.

Commissioner Ruggiero stated Commissioner Buonome sent a sympathy card to Mrs. Margaret Thomas who was a long time member of the Old Cemetery Board. Mrs. Thomas's husband recently passed away. Chairperson Sand stated he had read the obituary that stated donations could be made to the Old Stone Church Steeple Renovation Committee. Chairperson Sand stated since Mrs. Thomas had been a member of the Old Cemetery Board, it would be a nice gesture if the current Board made a donation in her late husband's name.

Chairperson Sand asked for a motion to approve a donation in the name of Donald Thomas, Jr. to the Old Stone Church Steeple Renovation Committee in the amount of \$300.00.

Commissioner Ruggiero made a motion to approve a donation in the name of Donald Thomas, Jr. to the Old Stone Church Steeple Renovation Committee in the amount of \$300.00. Vice-Chairperson Federico seconded the motion to approve a donation in the name of Donald Thomas, Jr. to the Old Stone Church Steeple Renovation Committee in the amount of \$300.00.

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. A donation in the name of Donald Thomas, Jr. will be made to the Old Stone Church Steeple Renovation Committee in the amount of \$300.00.

Chairperson Sand asked Commissioner Ruggiero to send the donation as well as a nice card to Mrs. Thomas.

Vice-Chairperson Federico stated she sent a Get Well card to former Old Cemetery Board member Carmel Antonucci who had been ill.

Chairperson Sand asked if there was any other new business to be brought forward.

Hearing none, Chairperson Sand asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Vice-Chairperson Federico made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Ruggiero seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Gravino, Clerk