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**EAST HAVEN OLD CEMETERY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 27, 2023**

The East Haven Old Cemetery Board held a regular meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, April 27, 2023 virtually and transacted the following:

Chairperson Robert Sand called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

Present: Commissioners Melanie Johnson, Arlene Hackbarth, Judy Ruggiero, Chairperson Robert Sand, Vice-Chairperson Marcia Federico and James Longo.

Approval of Minutes:

Chairperson Sand asked if all in attendance had received and read the minutes from the March 30, 2023 regular meeting and all had. Chairperson Sand asked if there were any corrections, omissions or questions.

Commissioner Ruggiero stated one correction under old business. It should read "Commissioner Ruggiero spoke to the secretary at East Lawn Cemetery who had spoken to the caretaker of East Lawn Cemetery. The secretary told Commissioner Ruggiero that the caretaker had told her it was the Town that put in metal poles." Commissioner Ruggiero had not spoken directly to the caretaker.

Chairperson Sand asked if there were any other corrections.

Hearing none, Chairperson Sand asked for a motion to accept the March 30, 2023 regular meeting minutes with the one correction.

Vice-Chairperson Federico made a motion to accept the March 30, 2023 regular meeting minutes with the one correction. Commissioner Hackbarth seconded the motion to accept the March 30, 2023 regular meeting minutes with the one correction.

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Minutes from March 30, 2023 regular meeting were accepted with the one correction.

Treasurer's Report:

Commissioner Ruggiero stated there was no activity and the balance in the checking account remained at \$7,408.72.

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.

Vice-Chairperson Federico 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.

Correspondence:

Chairperson Sand stated he received a telephone call concerning burial of cremains in the Old Cemetery and would elaborate under "New Business".

Ongoing Project Reports:**Landscaping:**

Chairperson Sand stated Dawn Cummings, the Town of East Haven Purchasing Agent who is in charge of contracts and bids, was working on finalizing the contract with Garden of Eden Landscaping. Chairperson Sand had not heard back from her at time of meeting, he would call her on April 28, 2023 for an update. Ms. Cummings had sent what she thought was the updated contract that included the \$400.00 increase, but upon return of the rejected contract, realized the contract had not been updated. Ms. Cummings made the corrections and re-issued it after Chairperson Sand went over the contract with her.

Chairperson Sand reached out to Fred from Garden of Eden Landscaping who stated he had performed 2 spring cleanups and planned to cut the grass on April 21, 2023.

Commissioners Hackbarth and Johnson planted pansies in the urns that adorn the either side of the front entrance of the cemetery. While there, Commissioner Johnson noticed a white pick up truck parked over the new curbing and on the newly planted grass; the owner of vehicle was nowhere to be found.

Commissioners Hackbarth and Johnson both noticed the area on the right side of the cemetery just inside the entrance which had been damaged by previous East Haven Public Service work, was in need of more fill. Chairperson Sand will contact Superintendent Charles Coyle concerning it.

Chairperson Sand stated he went into the back of the cemetery to see if trees earmarked to be cut were, they weren't. He will contact Mr. Coyle concerning this as well as Mr. Coyle stated he would have his crew take care of it during winter.

Bamboo:

No Report. This item will be left on agenda until it starts to warm up.

Retention Wall:

No Report concerning retention wall.

Main Gate Entrance Pavers and Shrubbery Along Curbing:

Chairperson Sand stated he had not heard from Mr. Coyle concerning the shrubbery nor the paver bricks. He will reach out to Mr. Coyle concerning this as well.

Old Cemetery Flyer:

Vice-Chairperson Federico stated she went to Staples to look at types of paper available. For what the sub-committee wanted, cream-colored paper would work the best.

Commissioner Johnson stated she was still leaving copies of the original flyer at Town Hall and the Library because people were taking the flyer and she had to restock several times.

It was reported Commissioner Buonome's daughter had started the process of checking the flyer for grammatical errors.

The sub-committee will meet when the weather improves.

Chairperson Sand asked if the Board was having second thoughts about revamping the flyer. It was decided to wait until grammar update was complete and draft of flyer on new paper with a different font was done, then a decision would be made.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Chairperson Sand stated he received a phone call from Craig and Heather Renchy. Mr. and Mrs. Renchy first contacted East Lawn Cemetery. The secretary, Renee, put them in contact with Chairperson Sand. The couple contacted Chairperson Sand because Mr. Renchy's wanted to bury his brother's cremains with their mother, Thelma Gerrish Renchy who had been interned in the Old Cemetery. Mr. Renchy's brother Gerald had died out of state and was cremated out of state as well. Chairperson Sand explained the procedure and what documents were necessary for this to occur. Chairperson Sand received the necessary documents that were then given to Commissioner Ruggiero who then sent a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Renchy detailing the steps needed to be taken in order to bury Gerald Renchy's cremains with Mr. Renchy's mother.

After a few logistical issues that Chairperson Sand helped sort out, burial of Gerald Renchy's cremains had been scheduled for Monday, May 8, 2023 at 11:00 am.

Chairperson Sand asked for 2 or 3 volunteers to bear witness to the burial. Commissioner Lungo volunteered. Commissioner Hackbarth may be able to attend.

Chairperson Sand asked for a motion to approve the burial of Gerald Renchy's cremains with his mother, Thelma Gerrish Renchy, who had been interned in the Old Cemetery.

Vice-Chairperson Federico made a motion to approve the burial of Gerald Renchy's cremains with his mother, Thelma Gerrish Renchy, who had been interned in the Old Cemetery. Commissioner Ruggiero seconded the motion to approve the burial of Gerald Renchy's cremains with his mother, Thelma Gerrish Renchy, who had been interned in the Old Cemetery.

Chairperson Sand asked for a roll call vote:

Commissioner Johnson: Yes

Commissioner Hackbarth: Yes

Commissioner Ruggiero: Yes

Commissioner Lungo: Yes

Vice-Chairperson Federico: Yes

Chairperson Sand: Yes

All in favor, no abstentions, none opposed, motion carried. The Old Cemetery Board approved the burial of Gerald Renchy's cremains with his mother, Thelma Gerrish Renchy, who had been interned in the Old Cemetery.

Commissioner Johnson stated the East Haven Historical Society would like to plant a dwarf Mountain Laurel shrub at the grave of Charlotte Thompson who had been interned in the Old Cemetery. Charlotte Thompson was instrumental in the designation of the Mountain Laurel as the State of Connecticut flower. Charlotte Thompson was the President of the East Haven Women's Club that saved the Old Cemetery as well as the East Haven Green.

Discussion took place.

Chairperson Sand asked for a motion to approve the planting of a dwarf Mountain Laurel shrub at the grave of Charlotte Thompson who had been interned in the Old Cemetery.

Commissioner Hackbarth made a motion approve the planting of a dwarf Mountain Laurel shrub at the grave of Charlotte Thompson who had been interned in the Old Cemetery. Vice-Chairperson Federico seconded the motion to approve the planting of a dwarf Mountain Laurel shrub at the grave of Charlotte Thompson who had been interned in the Old Cemetery.

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. The Old Cemetery Board approved the planting of a dwarf Mountain Laurel shrub at the grave of Charlotte Thompson who had been interned in the Old Cemetery.

Chairperson Sand asked if there was any other New Business.

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

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

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Gravino, Clerk