

EAST HAVEN OLD CEMETERY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

The Old Cemetery Board held a regular meeting on Thursday, September 30, 2021 virtually and transacted the following:

- Chairperson Melanie Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.
- **Roll call** was taken and a quorum was present.
Present: Commissioners Barbara Buonome, Melanie Johnson, Judy Ruggiero. Absent: Commissioners Marcia Federico, Robert Sand.
- **Approval of Minutes:**
Chairperson Johnson asked for a motion to accept August 26, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes. Commissioner Ruggiero made a motion to accept minutes, Commissioner Buonome seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. August 26, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes accepted.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Commissioner Ruggiero gave the report, paid a total of \$775.00 to Garden of Eden for landscaping on the following dates: August 20, 2021 and August 31, 2021. Commissioner Ruggiero paid \$1,000.00 to Babasull, LLC fka Benny's Masonry nka. The balance is \$16,535.81. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to accept treasurer's report as read, Commissioner Buonome seconded motion. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Treasurer's Report accepted as read.
- **Old Business:** Commissioner Ruggiero stated Benny is still owed \$1,000.00 for past repairs but Commissioners not sure if repairs had been completed. Chairperson Johnson stated we should just pay since the Board does not have an invoice. Commissioner Ruggiero stated she never received an invoice, just had signed contract for work. Benny then called to state work is complete, Commissioner Ruggiero would then pay. The excess concrete hadn't been filed down as of yet, once completed, payment of remaining balance will occur.

Commissioner Ruggiero stated Sal Maltese is in process of performing audit for Board. Commissioner Ruggiero wrote a letter to Mr. Tuttle stating the descriptive language change for location of his grave. Commissioner Ruggiero included with letter the sketch showing location of graves as backup to what was stated in letter. Per members of the Board, Mr. Tuttle's grave is located near his father's grave, not next to his father, as previously thought by Mr. Tuttle. Commissioner Ruggiero also asked Mr. Tuttle in her letter to confirm the fact the head stone for his mother is only there for family to visit because her body is not buried there and that his mother's ashes were spread on top of his father's grave. Mr. Tuttle called Commissioner Ruggiero and acknowledged the acceptance of the descriptive language and confirmed what was stated about his mother's head stone and remains.

Chairperson Johnson contacted Mrs. Tina Hedley, Mayor Carfora's Executive Secretary, to put a copy of Sarah Hughes's History of the Old Cemetery" on the Old Cemetery web page along with a list of headstones handwritten by Mr. Chidsey and typed up by Mrs. Motti.

- **New Business:** Commissioner Ruggiero stated Commissioner Sand investigated what needs to be done as far as cleanup at the Old Cemetery. It was stated the underbrush is taking over the Indian Bowl. The underbrush needs to be cleared and mulched. There is also overgrowth along fence on Hemingway Avenue side of Cemetery. It was asked who could perform this work. It was discussed that Mayor Carfora and Public Works Superintendent Charles Coyle were walking the Cemetery to see what needs to be done. The Public Works Department can do the cleanup and will work on shoring up the wall of the Hemingway Avenue side of the Cemetery.

Chairperson Johnson saw the Mayor on the Town Green, she spoke to him along with his Assistant Administrative Manager Michelle Benivegna concerning the repairs and work needed at the Cemetery. Mrs. Benivegna asked about grants to which Chairperson Johnson replied State Representative Joseph Zullo stated to her he had a list of grants but never gave the list to Chairperson Johnson. Mrs. Benivegna stated she will contact Mr. Zullo.

Commissioner Ruggiero stated Wendy Bellmore who is organizing Wreaths Across America which puts wreaths on the graves of veterans, contacted her asking if the Old Cemetery had any veterans within its boundaries. Commissioner Ruggiero stated there are but do not know location of graves. Given this fact, Wendy Bellmore will be donating 4 wreaths to be placed on fencing in honor of the veterans buried in Old Cemetery.

Chairperson Johnson stated she had \$10.00 of donation money collected at Fall Festival for the Old Cemetery. She will send it to Commissioner Ruggiero to be deposited into bank account.

Chairperson Johnson stated a man by the name of Mr. Peter Savino, a Branford, CT resident, contacted her concerning the burial of a relative's ashes, Paul Houde, next to his mother Dorothy Houde Mullins, who is buried in the last grave next to the Indian Bowl. Paul Houde's father's head stone is located next to Dorothy's grave, but his father is not buried there, his father is actually buried in West Hartford. Commissioner Ruggiero stated the Board would have to see Paul Houde's birth certificate indicating Dorothy was indeed his mother. Once that occurs, Mr. Savino will have to contact East Lawn Cemetery to have plot opened and members of the Old Cemetery Board will need to be present to bear witness to the burial.

- **Adjournment:** Chairperson Johnson asked if there was any further business to be brought forth, being none, she made a motion to adjourn meeting, Commissioner Buonome seconded motion, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Gravino, Clerk