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TOWN CLERK

EAST HAVEN OLD CEMETERY BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 26, 2023

The East Haven Old Cemetery Board held a special meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, October 26, 2023 in person at the East Haven Senior Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT 06512, 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 Arlene Hackbarth, Barbara Buonome, Chairperson Robert Sand, Judy Ruggiero and Melanie Johnson. Absent James Longo

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairperson Sand asked if all in attendance had received and read the minutes from the hybrid special meeting of August 31, 2023 and all had. Chairperson Sand asked if there were any corrections, omissions or questions

Commissioner Ruggiero stated she had a correction. On page 2 under landscaping the word grassing should read grass

Chairperson Sand asked if there were any other corrections.

Hearing none, Chairperson Sand asked for a motion to accept the August 31, 2023 hybrid special meeting minutes with the one correction.

Commissioner Buonome made a motion to accept the August 31, 2023 hybrid special meeting minutes with the one correction. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion to accept the August 31, 2023 hybrid special meeting with the one correction

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Ruggiero stated that on Sept. 15, 2023 she paid Jovani Precious Cuts \$540.00 for lawn services that occurred on Sept. 6, 2023, and on Oct. 24, 2023 she paid him for services rendered on October 1, 2023 for a total of \$1080.00. A donation of \$50.00 was received from an anonymous donor for the restoration of gravestones. Balance in the account as of Oct. 25,

2023 is \$9,891.77

Chairperson Sand asked if there were any questions, concerns, corrections with the treasurer's report as read.

Hearing non Chairperson Sand asked for a motion to accept the treasurer's report as read.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as read. Commissioner Buonome seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report as read. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Treasurer's report accepted as read.

Commissioner Ruggiero stated that Sal Maltese is still working on the audit.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ONGOING PROJECT REPORTS

LANDSCAPING

Chairperson Sand reported that the grass cutting looks good. He pulled a number of branches out of the cemetery and placed them in front of the gate for Public Works to pick up. He was assured that they would do so. To date we are under budget for grass cuttings. Urns are okay no mums yet. Chairperson Sand will have a conversation with Jovani regarding the leaves that are falling in the cemetery.

BAMBOO:

Chairperson Sand reported that neighbors have cut the bamboo and there are no shoots in the cemetery.

RETENTION WALL:

No update. Commissioner Johnson asked if the Town had a grant writer who could look into funding for historical cemeteries.

MAIN GATE ENTRANCE PAVERS AND SHRUBERY ALONG CURBING

Chairperson Sand has not heard from Charlie Coyle. He stated that Mr. Coyle's focus is on the Green. Jovani stated he sometimes has shrubs he pulls out from customer's landscapes and asked if we would be interested in any of them. We will check back with him in the Spring.

OLD CEMETERY FLYER

Chairperson Sand passed out two versions of the flyer to the Commissioners one with the boxed version of Benjamin Franklin's quote and one without the box. He asked each Commissioner which they preferred. All Commissioners preferred the boxed version.

Chairperson Sand asked for a motion to approve the boxed version for the Benjamin Franklin quote.

Commissione Buonome made a motion to accept the boxed version for the Benjamin Franklin quote. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion for the boxed version of the quote.

All in favor of the motion, none opposed, no abtentions, motion carried

Discussion followed regarding the color and texture of the flyer. Chairperson Sand sent around a packet of sample papers for the Commissioners to consider. Commissioners all agreed on a buff color paper with a linen type texture. Commissioner Buonome stated her daughter will print the flyers if we supply the paper. Commissioners agreed that we would supply the Ink cartridge and paper starting with 100 copies, and we would do the folding of the flyer. Chairperson Sand asked if it would be possible to move the area with the green shading a little to the right. If not then leave it. Commissioner Buonome will check with her daughter . Chairperson Sand will inquire as to the cost of a ream of the paper chosen by the Commissioners or if the supplier can recommend anyone else. Chairperson Sand asked if there were any last comments regarding the flyer. He heard none.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Johnson stated that she and Paul Garneu would go to Site One within the next couple of weeks to pick out a Mountain Laurel tree to plant at the gravesite of Charlotte Thompson. Paul will take photographs of the planting.

Chairperson Sand met with Bedri and Benny and walked the old cemetery to count the number of stones that need repair and the cost to do so. The count was 72 stones with a cost of \$300.00 per stone for a total of \$21,600. One grave monument would need scaffolding . Chairperson Sand asked for a written quote. He stated this cost would need to go out to bid, or we could limit the number of stones and go to the to the town yearly for funding.

Commissioner Johnson asked if the town can write a grant as the old cemetery is a distressed historical site. The headstones along the Hemingway side of the cemetery may be in danger of collasping in the future. Can the Board forward information regarding possible funding sources to the Mayor.

Commissioner Ruggiero stated that her granddaughter Raiden was not able to do a rubbing of the old Hemingway stone, but was successfull with the rubbing of the new stone. She was happy with the results.

#### NEW BUSINESS

A discussion ensued regarding making a memorial contribution in Marcia Federico Longo's

name. Chairperson Sand called Tuttle School and was told that 50% of a contribution would stay at Tuttle School and 50% would be forwarded to the high school for scholarships. The Animal Shelter in another possibility. A discussion followed regarding these choices.

Chairperson Sand made a motion to donate \$200.00 in memory of Marcia Federico Longo to the East Haven Animal Shelter. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion to donate \$200.00 in memory of Marcia Ferderico Longo to the East Havfeen Animal Shelter.

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried.

After Commissioners reviewed the meeting schedule for 2024, Chairperson Sand made a motion to approve the 2024 Old Cemetery Board Meeting Schedule. Seconded by Commissioner Ruggiero to approve the 2024 Old Cemetery Meeting Schedule.

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried.

Chairperson Sand asked Jovanni to look at the under brush in the Indian Bowl and to remove the two cedar trees. He was quoted a price by Jovanni of \$1400.00. Chairperson Sand will get another quote. He spoke to Dawn at town hall regarding bids. If the price is under \$1400.00 a bid will not be necessary. Dawn gave Chairperson Sand the names of two contractors. One of the contractors canceled his meeting. Chairperson Sand will continue to get another quote. Jovanni's quote was only for cutting the underbrush not digging up the roots.

Chairperson Sand asked if there was any other New Business.

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

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Ruggiero seconded the motion.

All in favor, none opposed, no absetentions, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Arlene Hackbarth

Recorder

Stacy Gravino

Clerk

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