

Lisa Balter
TOWN CLERK

**EAST HAVEN OLD CEMETERY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 25, 2024**

The East Haven Old Cemetery Board held a regular meeting virtually as well as in person and transacted the following:

Chairperson Robert Sand called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

Present via Zoom: Commissioners Arlene Hackbarth, Barbara Buonome, Judy Ruggiero, and Chairperson Robert Sand.

Present in Person: Board Clerk Stacy Gravino

Absent: Commissioner James Longo.

Public Present via Zoom: Kassi Zeichner

Approval of Minutes:

Chairperson Sand asked if all in attendance had received and read the minutes from the December 28, 2023 regular meeting and all had. Chairperson Sand asked if there were any corrections, omissions or questions.

Commissioner Ruggiero stated she had one correction. Under Old Business –should read file cabinet containing correspondence for the Old Cemetery Board.

Chairperson Sand asked if there were any other corrections.

Hearing none, Chairperson Sand asked for a motion to accept the December 28, 2023 regular meeting minutes with the one correction.

Commissioner Hackbarth made a motion to accept the December 28, 2023 regular meeting minutes with the one correction. Commissioner Buonome seconded the motion to accept the December 28, 2023 regular meeting minutes with the one correction.

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Minutes from December 28, 2023 regular meeting were accepted with the one correction.

Correspondence: Chairperson Sand received a telephone call from Town Council Chairperson Joseph Deko concerning the makeup of the Old Cemetery Board. Chairperson Sand was told that per Town Charter, the makeup of the Board had to be 4 Democrats and 3 of minority representation. As such Judy Ruggiero, 20-year member of the Board as well as James Longo would not be re-appointed to Board since they are both registered Republicans.

Treasurer's Report:

Commissioner Ruggiero stated on January 13, 2024 she paid Jovani Precious Cuts \$1400.00 for the Indian Bowl cleanup that occurred on January 10, 2024. Balance in account was \$7086.70 as of January 25, 2024.

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

Hearing none, Chairperson Sand asked for a motion to accept the treasurer's report as read.

Commissioner Buonome 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.

Ongoing Project Reports:

Landscaping:

Chairperson Sand stated Indian Bowl was completely cleaned out and looks amazing. Chairperson

Bamboo:

Chairperson Sand reported no shoots have appeared in the old cemetery.

Retention Wall: No Report

Main Gate Entrance Pavers and Shrubbery Along Curbing: No Report

Old Business:

Chairperson Sand distributed the revised Old Cemetery flyers to the Town Hall, the Hagan Library as well as the Trolley Museum; the remaining flyers were stored in the Old Cemetery Board file cabinet.

Commissioner Ruggiero reported to the Board there were a total 9 grass cuts occurred for 2023.

Commissioner Ruggiero asked if the wreath was still on the gate of the Old Cemetery, Chairperson responded that it was she asked that it be removed since it was end of January.

Commissioner Ruggiero stated she had the Old Cemetery Board minutes from August 29, 1988 that stated as of that date, no new burials would take place due to lack of space with the exception for burial within family plots of remains.

New Business:

Chairperson Sand stated he forwarded Victor Perricone's resume to Town Council Chairperson Joseph Deko for consideration and possible appointment to the Old Cemetery Board.

Chairperson Sand stated he spoke with Finance Director James Keeley concerning asking for Capital Improvement money to repair and restore the remaining 80 headstones that were in disrepair. Chairperson Sand was told the stipend money provided by the Town to the Board came from the 880 account which Michelle Benivegna controlled access. A letter needed to be written and sent to Ms. Benivegna. Chairperson Sand and Commissioner Ruggiero were in process of writing letter.

As this meeting was the last for Commissioner Ruggiero, Commissioner Hackbarth and Chairperson Sand thanked Commissioner Ruggiero for her 20 years of dedicated service to the Old Cemetery Board. Her expertise as the Treasurer as well as Old Cemetery historian would be sorely missed.

Chairperson Sand asked if there was any other New Business.

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

Commissioner Hackbarth 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