

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES


TOWN CLERK

JULY 28, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Old Cemetery Board was held virtually on Thursday, July 28, 2022 at 7:00 pm and transacted the following:

1. Call to Order:

Chairperson Robert Sand called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present. Commissioners in attendance: Judy Ruggiero, Melanie Johnson, Robert Sand, Marcia Federico, Barbara Buonome, and Arlene Hackbarth.

2. Approval of Minutes – June 30, 2022 Regular Meeting;

Chairperson Sand asked if all had received and read the minutes from the June 30, 2022 Regular Meeting and all had. Chairperson Sand asked if there were any corrections. Commissioner Ruggiero stated it should read Town of East Haven Purchasing Agent, not Town of East Purchasing Agent. Commissioner Ruggiero also stated Chairperson Sand used a shovel then a wire to dig around the stones, not just a wire to dig around the stones. Chairperson Sand pointed out the misspelling of Commissioner Buonome's last name.

Chairperson asked for a motion to approve minutes with the stated corrections. Commissioner Federico made a motion to approve the minutes with the stated corrections. Commissioner Ruggiero seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. The June 30, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes were approved with the stated corrections.

3. Treasurer's Report:

Commissioner Ruggiero paid Garden of Eden Landscaping \$775.00 on July 8, 2022 for landscaping that occurred on June 8, 2022 and June 29, 2022.

Commissioner Ruggiero stated she received and deposited the stipend check of \$6,300.00 received from the Town of East Haven for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year. The balance in the account stands at \$11,982.93.

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

Commissioner Buonome made a motion to accept treasurer's report as read.

Commissioner Hackbarth seconded motion. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Treasurer's Report accepted as read.

4. Ongoing Project Reports:

a) Landscaping:

Chairperson Sand stated Old Cemetery was looking good, landscaping done, no branches or debris present. Chairperson Sand stated he met with 3 landscaping companies that had answered a bid for tree removal in the Old Cemetery. At the same time, Chairperson Sand met with Public Works Superintendent Charles Coyle and Public Works Supervisor Anthony Torrello asking if Public Works could do the tree and branch removal as well as lifting a crossed shaped stone and placing it back onto top of its pedestal. This stone was knocked off due to a falling limb. Chairperson Sand was assured Public Works could do the necessary tree and branch removal as well as stone placement. Between August and the end of September, Public Works will perform the necessary removals. Chairperson Sand instructed Town of East Haven Purchasing Agent Dawn Cummings to issue letters to the three landscaping companies thanking them for their interest but their services would not be needed. Commissioner Hackbarth replaced the pansies in the urns with geraniums, petunias, and licorice plants.

b) Headstone Repair and Restoration:

Chairperson Sand had received a phone call concerning broken headstones. He surveyed the Old Cemetery but could not locate any newly damaged headstones.

c) Bamboo Concerns:

Chairperson Sand stated he discussed the bamboo issue with Public Works staff and told them Zoning Officer Budrow was in touch with land use attorney Jennifer Coppola and a letter was being drafted. Chairperson Sand met with Zoning Officer Budrow and asked about letter. Mr. Budrow stated letter was still in draft form. Chairperson Sand read said letter and made the necessary corrections. The letter was sent to the homeowner on July 28, 2022.

d) Retention Wall:

Commissioner Johnson asked Chairperson Sand to send an email to Mayor Carfora and Michelle Benivegna reminding them that the Board was still waiting for information concerning grants for the Old Cemetery to repair the retention wall. Commissioner Johnson stated to also remind the Mayor that the Old Cemetery is listed on the National Park Registry and as such is entitled to grant money.

e) River Street Curbing:

No Report. Chairperson Sand asked Board what type of curbing should be put in; all members agreed materials used should be granite as well as a cobblestone entrance.

5. Old Business

a) Fence Painting: No Report.

b) Boy Scout/Eagle Scout Project: No Report.

c) Bulb Purchase:

Chairperson Sand was asked what type of flower bulbs does he want and his response was daffodils.

6. New Business

**a) Discussion and Possible Decision Concerning to Returning to
In-Person Meetings to be held at the Senior Center:**

No Report.

**b) Discussion and Possible Decision Concerning Allowing Metal
Detecting to Occur in Old Cemetery:**

Commissioner Buonome asked do we want someone walking around the Cemetery and disturbing the ground in the off chance there might be something of historical value found? Commissioner Johnson stated Steve DeLucia had gone through the Cemetery a few years ago and didn't find anything so it probably wasn't worth doing it again. All agreed it wasn't worth doing.

Chairperson Sand stated a sign directing people whom to contact when they have questions and should be put up along with brochures on gate as had been done in the past.

Other New Business:

Chairperson Sand stated he went to the Town Clerk's Office to see what information was on the Town website, but could only locate minutes and agendas. Chairperson Sand asked the Town Clerk if there was an ordinance prohibiting Town Organizations from having their own website. The Town Clerk was unable to find any such ordinance. Chairperson Sand stated the Board had 2 options, either run their own website at a cost to the Board and have link put on Town website, or, submit content to Tina Hedley, website specialist, for her to upload. Chairperson Sand asked members to think about these options and revisit at next meeting.

Commissioner Ruggiero had information concerning number of headstones that have been repaired and restored. From 2002 to July 28, 2022, a total of 179 headstones have been repaired and restored. Benny and his father, Bedri, repaired 169 of those headstones.

Commissioner Johnson commented that she had found by-laws that stated the Board should have 7 members. Chairperson Sand said to think about a new member and to discuss it at next meeting.

7. Adjournment:

Chairperson Sand asked if there was any other business that needed to be brought before the Board, hearing none he asked for a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Ruggiero made a motion to adjourn meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Gravino, Clerk