

**EAST HAVEN
OLD CEMETERY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 28, 2016**

A Regular Meeting of the Old Cemetery Board was held on Thursday January 28, 2016 in the Mario Giamo Conference Room, Lower Level, Town Hall, 250 Main Street, East Haven at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of the following:

1. Call to Order

William Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Roll Call, Chairman William Jackson, James Saccavino, Barbara Buonome, Judy Ruggiero, Margaret Thomas. Absent was Carmel Antonucci.

2. Approval of Minutes

Judy Ruggiero stated a correction in the November minutes that Peggy donated the bow to the wreath not Barbara.

James Saccavino made a motion to approve the corrected minutes from November, 2015. Judy Ruggiero seconded. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

3. Treasurer's Report

Judy Ruggiero stated that she paid \$45.93 for the Christmas wreath and deposited Peggy's \$8.00 donation on the 9th of December. Judy paid B&R Landscaping \$2,125.00 on December 18, 2015 for blowing leaves in piles, a final mow, picking up 2 piles of leaves and removing them on the 1st and 3rd of December and cutting up a fallen tree and picking up the branches from storm damage. The total balance in the account is currently \$9,913.09. Peggy made a motion to accept the treasures report. Barbara seconded. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

4. Old Business

Judy wants to go on record that Ron from B & R Landscaping is not as good as his word. He was then honest about the work he was doing at the Old Cemetery, and I called him more than I should have had to for him to get the job done that we are paying him for. On the 3rd of November I sent Ron a note about picking up the leaves and he called me to tell me that he had been there the week of the 16th but Bill said he had not seen him down there. So I thought that was a red flag and I began going down there on

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the days he said he was claiming he was down there. I was there myself on the 23rd and could not see anywhere we he said he picked up leaves. He got all flustered and started stuttering and stated that I did not tell him that. I said oh yes I did. He immediately said he would be there next week and I told him I would hold him to his work. In the meantime, I saw part of a tree that was falling away from the main tree and there was a big branch on the ground. I called Public Works and they said they would go down there and take care of it for me. They never did. So I called Ron, and stated I was calling again about the leaf pick up and he said he definitely would be there on the 30th of November or on the 1st week of December and they had planned on being there for a couple of days to finish it up. Marsha had called her on the 30th and stated they were there picking up leaves. On the 1st of December he called to say that they would be there today to finish picking up the leaves and he picked up the leaves that East Lawn blew over into our area as well. I asked him if he saw the tree down that his contract stated for him to pick up the storm damage and that tree fell during the hard rain in November. He stated he was not aware that he was responsible for storm damage and he would go home and look at his contract and if it did say that he would certainly go there to pick it up. I went to town hall and got a clarification and copy of the bid and sure enough it was right there. Paul Rizza asked me if we were trying to get rid of him, I said no we just want him to do the job we are paying him for and he went up on his price exorbitantly and he is not doing the work he did before he went up on the price. Paul Rizza states well let me know because if he wants to extend the bid next year I can write a letter for you and state because he is not doing his job we are putting it out to bid for someone else. On the 3rd of December I went down to see if Ron took down the tree and he did but I walked in the back area and there were leaves and branches piled up against the fence and it was way too much to say these fell during the night. I called Ron and thanked him for taking down the tree and picking up the branches that had fallen but I had walked along the back and there were leaves and branches piles up along the fence that needed to be picked up. At first he told me he must not have seen that. I stated "really!", I said they are huge branches how could you have not seen them? Then he changed his story, he said he was not with the guys today he would have to ask the guys and go back and have them picked up he guessed. I said well, while you're there, there is an area that is box shaped that had not been done at all. He was clearly annoyed with me. On the 12th day of December the branches were still there and the leaf piles. Ron at B&R landscaping was hot under the collar by now because I had written him a letter, and he said he wants to meet me there and for me to show him where these piles are. I said you have got to be kidding me you were there in that area, you were picking up what you went back to get, you did not see the 2 piles that are there? No I did not he said, and I want you to show me! I stated I would be glad to. In the mean time I developed a knee problem and could not walk so I had to

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call and tell him that, so I said either you go back and clean up the area I am talking about or you can pick them up in the spring. The squared off area where the chain is has never been raked or cleaned and Ron claimed that it was woods. I said no there are 2 stones there and it is part of the Old Cemetery. He said he never saw the stones. I told him the stones are standing up not laying on the ground. Ron said on the 6th of January he would go there and clean it up and if he is wrong he will pick up the piles of braches too. I stated to him I do not expect you to charge the Old Cemetery AGAIN. On December 21st I went down there to see if he picked up the branches and cleaned the leaves from the box area, but he did not do it to my expectations, he just kind of did it and left a mess. He could have cleaned it out better along the fence line. Then I realized there is no fence there, a good nine sections of fence is gone. A neighbor has attached chicken wire from post because they have a dog there. Then I realized there are 3 posts lying on the ground by the tree. I though this is something we can think about doing in the future- I don't know who to call but this is where we stand today. Peggy states to Judy, so you paid him? Judy states yes with the understanding that he goes and does what he is supposed to do and will not charge us again and hopefully he won't.

The clerk Temple Smith asks for clarification for the \$2,125.00 that was paid did he charge you each time he went back? Judy stated yes and that she was upset about it. Temple Smith stated that Judy has control of the check book and if guessing that if a vendor does not do their job in its entirety, she does not have to pay them until the job is completed properly, and that the finance department could give clarification for her on proper procedure. Temple Smith also offered to walk the cemetery in the future upon request if anyone could not get out there for any reason. Pictures would be taken and reported back if needed.

Judy stated that there are two broken stones in the back. Judy stated that she had walked back there and could not find them. She stated that Marsha will have to go with her to show her where they are.

Barbara Buonome stated she tried to contact Holly Cole regarding the Sympathy Tea and the phone number is no longer valid. Barbara looked online and there are several phone numbers to go through. Temple Smith asked for a picture of her and stated she would try to locate her through Social Media for the board if needed. Bill Jackson stated that he may have a picture at the Historical Society where the photo album is to see if there is a picture of Holly.

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5. New Business

Peggy Thomas wanted to address the posts that are down. She suggests that the board goes and look at them and discusses it at the next meeting. Judy states to go in the back and walk straight up the fence line. You will see where the posts are and where there is no fence. Peggy also asked Bill how the presentation went at the Library regarding the history of the Old Cemetery. Bill states it went really good. Judy states there was a woman there Teresa Sirocco. She was very enthused about getting us help with the stones. She said she was donating \$100 for the restoration, and that she was getting in touch with some of the professors of history at Quinnipiac College, and also some students to categorizing names for the Old Cemetery and that she was going to put it on Facebook our efforts to refurbish stones in hope that someone would know how to market this information and get us the money that we need to fix the stones. She took my name and phone number and if anyone calls me I am going to invite them to a meeting and we can talk about it with them.

6. Adjournment

James Saccavino made a motion to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. Peggy Thomas seconded. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Temple Smith, OCB Clerk