

**EAST HAVEN
OLD CEMETERY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 25, 2021**

A Regular Meeting of the Old Cemetery Board was held on Thursday February 25, 2021 via ZOOM at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of the following:

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm by Chairman Melanie Johnson. In attendance were Judy Ruggiero, Barbara Buonome, Marcia Federico, Arlene Hackbarth and Bob Sand.

2. Approval of Minutes

Judy Ruggiero stated 1 correction from the January meeting minutes, 5th line in New Business should be "the board". Marcia Federico made a motion to accept minutes as corrected and Barbara Buonome seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

3. Treasurer's Report

Judy Ruggiero stated that there had been no activity in the check book and the balance stands at \$15,200.45. Marcia Federico made a motion to accept the treasures' report. Barbara Buonome seconds the motion. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

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4. Old Business

Judy Ruggiero states that she received a letter from Joe Deko and was sworn in on Feb. 16th by Stacy Gravino. Melanie has not received a letter as of yet. Barbara did receive a letter and Marcia Federico as well, but the letter was incorrect appointing them to the incorrect board which will be corrected. Barbara did receive a corrected letter and was sworn in on the 31st. Marcia Federico will be calling into Town Hall to be sworn in.

The board gives permission for Bob Sand to take the wreaths down on the gates at the Old Cemetery and save the bows. Judy Ruggiero will keep the bows in her shed until next year.

Bob states that he has made some calls regarding the clean-up at the Old Cemetery. Bob texted a message to Charlie Coyle asking if the town would supply a dumpster and Charlie texted back no. Bob researched getting a dumpster at the cost of the board and the pricing he received was anywhere between \$300 and \$600 for the dumpster depending on the size of the dumpster it also includes pick up and drop off and you can use it for 30 days. Bob still needs to contact people for the man power for clean-up but will do that once the board decides what they want to do with the dumpster. Melanie suggests putting bags on River Street for Public Works to pick up as this has been done before and just give Charlie a heads up on the day that the clean-up will happen so they are aware. Judy states she is having second thoughts on the dumpster rental as this is a mess that Fred should be cleaning up and would hate to set a precedence that if we did it on our own she did not want him to have the mind-set he does not have to do the clean-up. When Fred goes down to do the spring cleaning the volunteers can be there at the same time putting all the stuff in Fred's truck or dumpster giving him assistance. Bob states that we could try to coordinate it that way with Fred and will provide an update. Bob spoke with Fred on Wednesday and Fred explained he was tested positive with COVID. Bob mentioned to Fred that the branches were cut up in the back by Public Works and were picked up but some small branches were left behind and some minor clean-up still needs to be done. Bob asked Fred about his equipment and Fred stated he said he is all set now. Bob and Fred will be meeting in mid-March in the cemetery to review what needs to be done. The board is in agreement with what needs to be done with Fred and the clean-up moving forward.

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5. New Business

Judy Ruggiero has the information for Bob for Benny's Masonry – 60 Woodruff Road, Farmington CT 06032 – cell is 203-223-5920,(Judy gave this information to Bob Sand) His name is Benny from Benny's Masonry. To make it worth his time he requests \$1,000 worth of work to come to the cemetery to restore a stone. We have \$655.00 in the checking toward stone restoration we need another \$345.00 for Benny to come down. Judy suggests taking \$345.00 out of the checking and transferring it toward the stone restoration to get a stone this year. Benny will walk the cemetery and suggest which one needs to be done next. The board was in agreement. Melanie states she has hundreds of pictures of stones that were taken from other restoration companies and she sees a lot of stones that needs to be done. Bob asks if these stones that need repair work if they have been cataloged in anyway. Judy states she has the information on the stones that were done under her watch. Benny gave Judy invoices and he picked out the stones and she wrote them down – just the name – the cemetery does not have markers to go by. Bob asks if the cemetery was made into a template at any point. Melanie states that people tried to do that over the years but it was a difficult process. Judy states all that information was lost when Bill Jackson passed and was all in his head. The boy scouts had attempted it and that boy went off to college and lost all the material. Melanie recollects Temple stating cemetery.com that referenced rows maybe go online and see what that site referenced. Bob states he will keep thinking of a way to pinpoint stones. Marcia referenced verifying by feet from an object like a fence or something instead of rows. Bob states that once he wraps up with the cleaning project he would like to attempt to brainstorm in the spring an option to reference the stones. The board agrees.

Melanie states that she received a phone call from Jan Cianelli who is in the Lion's Club and she mentioned a project called "Wreaths across America" for November and December 2021 and if it would be ok if they could put a wreath in the Old Cemetery at the headstone for the military families. The Lion's Club would lay the wreaths and they would also remove it after the holiday season, the wreaths could be purchased online for \$15 from the families of the military to honor their deceased for their service. The board is in agreement. Melanie asks Judy if she would not mind writing a letter to the Lion's Club giving them permission.

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The board elects officials:

Chairman: Marcia Federico nominates Bob Sands, Melanie Johnson seconds. Bob Sands declines. Marcia Federico nominates Melanie Johnson (on a temporary basis) , Barbara Buonome seconds.

Vice Chairman: Judy Ruggiero nominates Marcia Federico, Melanie Johnson seconds. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Clerk: Melanie Johnson nominates, Temple Smith, Marcia Federico seconds. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Treasurer: Marcia Federico nominates Judy Ruggiero, Barbara Buonome seconds. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

6. Adjournment

Melanie Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. Marcia Federico seconded. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Temple Smith, OCB Clerk