

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

A Regular Meeting of the Old Cemetery Board was held on Thursday March 25, 2021 via ZOOM at 7:34 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 was Judy Ruggiero, Marcia Federico, Arlene Hackbarth and Bob Sand. Absent was Barbara Buonome.

2. Approval of Minutes

Judy Ruggiero stated the 4th line down correction of "To make it worth his time to restore, he needs a minimum of \$1,000 to restore stones ". For clarification - Benny needs \$1,000 worth of work to make it worth his time to come do the restoration of stones at the cemetery. Marcia Federico made a motion to accept the minutes with the change. Arlene Hackbarth 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. Arlene Hackbarth seconds the motion. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

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4. Old Business

Judy Ruggiero discusses that Benny stated it is better to fix leaning stones before they fall then wait until the stones fall, then try to fix them. Judy asks the board what they would prefer to fix, the leaning stones before they break or to fix broken ones first which will cost more money. The board states that prevention is best in the long run. Judy would like to know if anyone would volunteer to meet Benny to go over what Benny thinks is best to be taken care of first in cemetery. Bob said he would be happy to meet him as well as Marcia. Marcia stated she could do any time after 3:30 pm as she works or the weekend. Marcia stated she does have a vacation during the week of April 12th so she can be available then as well. Judy will call to see what Benny's schedule is and report back.

The Lion's Club regarding Wreaths Across American: Judy contacted Jan Cianelli who is in the Lion's Club and she said she has not brought this idea to the club yet – right now is just an idea. Judy states it is pointless to write a letter to them as of yet. Judy stated that when they give the ok, she would like a request in the form of a letter from the Lion's Club and she would respond so they have a paper trail. Jan asked Judy if they knew the location of military men and women in the cemetery. Judy stated no, but that she can go online and look up old cemeteries in East Haven which will identify any people of military status that are there. Jan will get back to Judy if they agree to go forward with this project.

Melanie stated she is officially on the board until 2022, she found this out by calling town hall.

Bob Sands stated that on Tuesday March 16th at 10 am he met with Fred Faulkner the landscaper as well as Arlene Hackbarth at the cemetery. They walked down the Hemmingway Avenue area looked that over and pulled out the contract and went over it with Fred. Fred stated that his contract is a 16 cutting all-inclusive contract which is the raking, cleanup of leaves, picking up of liter, branches etc.. Fred stated his normal contracts are 22 cuttings and anything after that is additional, but in our contract is the 16 cut all inclusive. They spoke of public works coming to cut the branches, and he noticed that there was a lot of cleaning done and was impressed with that. Bob states that there are small sapling's that are hanging from the neighboring properties which would be dangerous to a lawn mower and people getting

poked in the eye. Melanie stated she was cutting those but noticed there is a lot of poison ivy in that area and that needs to be addressed first before anyone should touch it. Bob stated that there were small cuttings left behind by public works and Fred would appreciate it if we picked them up. Bob states that the area has a lot of leaves and when Fred rakes and cleans that area up he will be able to grab those as well and dispose of them. Bob states they went toward the Indian Bowl and a large tree that had been growing had a bad elbow and that had been cut away and Fred can now mow in that area. In the Indian Bowl mid area there is some brush that is growing wildly there and this is something that the board needs to address and is not Fred's pre-arrangement. Melanie states that this would need to be dug out and Fred does not dig as it is not in his contract. Bob states that back near River Street by the large pine tree another tree appears to have died completely and the board needs to be aware of it and possibly cut it down. Bob, Arlene and Fred came back down River Street and Fred now has the understanding that he has the responsibility to cut on both sides of the fence, both the street side and the fence side and pick up the litter on River Street. The cars through the winter there however had come up even further into the grassy area and way off the asphalt pavement, Bob thinks the board needs to look at that issue again regarding curbing. Fred was planning to be in the cemetery at the end of the month. Bob states that he needs to get with Judy from July 1st when the contract started and Bob needs to find out how many cuttings he has done since July 1st and how many he owes us until June 30th. Judy stated yes she will get Bob the information so he can have that conversation with Fred.

Judy states that Bob had asked her who was buried in the Old Cemetery and she states we have tried so many times to get these stones on record. The closest we came was when we had a boy scout who was doing it then he went off to college and lost the information. Bob asked if it was troop 401 and it was. Bob suggested asking the troop master if he has any of the old projects and he may have our records. Judy wrote Peggy Thomas regarding this project as she is a member of the Old Stone Church. Peggy stated that the story with the Boy Scout had something to do with plotting the graves, it was not the troop led by Ned Taylor, it was another boy scout group. Peggy stated that only a bit of it was done, she stated she had a list of people buried in the cemetery from 1707 – 1996. Judy stated she realized she had that same group of copies. Judy told Bob she has an extra copy he can have. Bob stated **"YOU ARE THE BEST JUDY!"**

Melanie asks Bob about the status of getting the crew together for clean-up. Bob states no progress as of yet as the dumpster idea did not work. Bob stated that the idea of putting bags on River Street with debris in or the bigger stuff in a pile on River Street and Charlie can be notified for pick up is a good one. The board was in agreement.

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Bob Sands stated he did take the wreath and garland down last month and the red bows were given to Judy. The wreath Bob has at his house and is looking at the construction of it as he has a handy daughter who may be able to construct a wreath next year to save some money. Judy stated she noticed the large bow, at the tails, were shredded so she trimmed them but not sure if she trimmed them too short. Judy states we will wait until next year to see how it looks, if it looks bad we will buy another bow.

5. New Business

None

6. Adjournment

Bob Sands made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm. Judy Ruggiero seconded. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Temple Smith, OCB Clerk