TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
Cemetery Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2022
Municipal Office Building
Meeting room 3
Via Zoom and YouTube Live

In attendance:

Cemetery Committee Members

Karl Stofko
Alison Guinness
Deb Denette

Others
Steven Taylor, President Sons of the American Resolution

Call to Order

Dr. Stofko called the Cemetery Committee to order at 7:02 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes

Mrs. Denette motioned to accept the minutes of the March 31, 2022 meeting amended to correct the spelling of "Guinness", which was corrected to include two "n"s.
Seconded by Mrs. Guinness and carried unanimously.

Distribution of Materials

Mrs. Denette distributed the meeting schedule that was filed with the Town Clerk last month. She stated that all meetings beginning with the May meeting will be considered regular meetings. Mrs. Guinness stated that she has a conflict with the May meeting. It was suggested that the May meeting time be utilized for cemetery visitation.

The compilation of cemeteries put together by Dr. Stofko and enhanced by Zoning with topography maps was distributed. Mrs. Denette added survey maps where available.
Dr. Stofko requested that additional materials from his original compilation be included as well.

Mrs. Guinness distributed A Historical and Genealogical Collection prepared by the Rathbun Free Memorial Library that included the location of East Haddam's 23 cemeteries.

Mrs. Denette distributed draft by-laws to be used as a starting point. Brief review of the headings was held, the State Statutes were attached to the back. Review of by-laws will be put on the agenda for the June meeting.

Mrs. Denette advised that she began a review of software for management of cemeteries, she stated that there is some great stuff out there, but she has yet to find one that will work for a number of different yards.
It was suggested that the American Cemetery Association or the Connecticut Cemetery Association might be a good resource.

Audience of Citizens

Mr. Steven Taylor of the Sons of the American Revolution advised the Committee that he is working with Jim Leatherbee following the vandalism that occurred at the Nathan Hale School House. He stated that the broken pieces of the headstones of Hannah Spencer and Major General Spencer, who was a Lawyer, Soldier and Statesmen and served as a delegate to the Continental Congress have been collected and are being stored in the River View Cemetery vault. Ms. Guinness and Dr. Stofko stated that they would recommend that reproductions be placed as the new markers. Dr. Stofko added that the artwork should be saved if possible. He noted that the stones were the work of John Isham Jr. and Silas Brainard. Mr. Taylor stated that the Sons of the American Revolution are gearing up for the 250th anniversary of our Declaration of Independence so that there is a definite desire that these be replaced. The concept of having a photograph of the original stone laser etched to a more suitable surface was discussed. Costs associated with stone repair as well as competent individuals to do the work was discussed. Dr. Stofko and Mrs. Guinness both had ideas to share and stated that they would provide names of individuals that could work on brownstone repair.

Mr. Taylor advised the Cemetery Committee that a movie regarding Fidelia Hoscott, who is considered the last speaker and preserver of the Mohegan Pequot language is being made and the school house will be utilized as a set in the film. The film is being made by the Mohegan tribe.

Mr. Taylor was thanked for visiting the Committee and his work with the Sons of the American Revolution.

There being no further business to discuss, the Committee adjourned upon a motion made and duly seconded at 7:35 p.mm

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Denette

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Guiness, seconded by Mr. Petinelli at 8:07 pm

Respectfully submitted

Debra Denette,
Cemetery Committee Secretary