**TOWN OF EAST HADDAM**
**Cemetery Committee**
Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2022
Municipal Office Building
Meeting room 3
Via Zoom and YouTube Live

In attendance:

Cemetery Committee Members

Karl Stofko
Alison Guinness
Deb Denette
Don Angersola

Others

Don Hansen
Eric Badrick

## Call to Order

Dr. Stofko called the Cemetery Committee to order at 7:00 p.m.

## Adoption of Minutes

Mrs. Guinness motioned to accept the minutes of the October 20, 2022 meeting as presented. Mrs. Denette seconded the motion to accept with the notation that a parentheses was backwards (her fault). The minutes of the October 20, 2022 meeting were unanimously accepted via voice vote.

## Correspondence

A memorandum was presented to the Board of Selectmen that forwarded the draft by-laws and requesting an attorney review. The memo also requested fencing at Bashan, repair of the gate at Millington, clean up at Warner, incorporation of a town cemetery sign at Second Yard and Parker Cemeteries and lastly relocation of the Indian stone at Mt. Parnassus cemetery. The date of Wednesday, September 23rd was determined for Mr. Angersola to meet with Ms. Guinness at the Mount Parnassus cemetery to facilitate the removal of the Indian stone and replacement of a temporary marker.
Mrs. Denette stated that the selectmen will review the by-laws prior to voting to send them to the town attorney. She stated that they seemed pleased with the work of the Committee to date.

## Calendar

The following meeting dates were established for the next calendar year:

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|---|---|---|
| | May 18, 2023 | October 19, 2023 |
| January 19, 2023 | June 15, 2023 | November 16, 2023 |
| February 16, 2023 | July 20, 2023 | December 21, 2023 |
| March 16, 2023 | August 17, 2023 | January 18, 2024 |
| April 20, 2023 | September 21, 2023 | |

## Veteran Update

Mr. Hansen and Mr. Badrick reported that they have identified an additional 231 veterans graves. Don noted that there is much data entry to do, he displayed a spreadsheet showing how they are documenting what they are finding and noted the sorting capabilities of it. He reported that through a donation they were able to obtain 5" thermal plastic markers which denote the branch of government or war the veteran participated in. He noted that brass markers are stolen. Mr. Hensen noted that there are concerns with the condition of Old Cove cemetery. Dr. Stofko noted that Old Cove is not a town owned cemetery, and that it has an active association. He stated that the town can take over a neglected cemetery, however, he would see if he could find out the reason for the neglect, as there is still an active association in place. Responsive to other comments from Mr. Hansen, Mrs. Guinness advised that Brownstone headstones are better preserved if they tip forward. It was also noted that Irma Carper-Miller has posted most gravestones on the Find A Grave site. Mr. Hansen presented a quote from Atlas …. Who would come to a cemetery, demonstrate appropriate methods to clean, straighten, etc. The cost would include both education and actual work on areas in need to be utilized for demonstration. Mrs. Guinness noted that Jonathan Apell at Atlas is highly regarded and generally difficult to get ahold of. Mr. Hensen was proposing to schedule a date in April for this to occur. Mrs. Denette noted that funds for this would need to work through the budget process, which could not be assured for this time. Mrs. Guinness and Dr. Stofko opined that this is a project that the Riverview Cemetery Association may be willing to fund.

### Indian Stone

As discussed earlier, Mr. Angersola and Mrs. Guinness will meet at Mount Parnassus cemetery at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 23, 2022 to remove the Indian marker and replace it with a temporary marker. It was recognized that a budget will need to be established to replace the temporary marker with a permanent one. Dr. Stofko noted that he has done a little research and confirmed that there were eight stones prior to 1980. In 1980 only 4 remained and now there is only one. Mrs. Guinness noted that the Foundation for Middlesex County may be a source of funding for an educational posting. Mrs. Denette emphasized that we would need to have the

wording of what we would want to put on a memorial finalized so we could look for options and quotes. Mrs. Guinness also told Mr. Angersola that she would like to visit Town Farm Cemetery with him as well, as she thinks she knows where it is, but wants verification that her assumption is correct.

**Budget**

Brief discussion was held regarding the upcoming budget process. It was noted that we will be asked to develop a budget and if there is pricing that is needed so we know what to put in, we should look into it now, such as a replacement Indian stone.

Mr. Angersola suggested to put in recurring costs such as replacement stones at $5,000 annually. Similarly establish a budget for survey's estimated that each survey will cost and at the end of 10 years, providing funding for one a year, all cemeteries will have been surveyed. Side discussion occurred about the difficulty in finding available surveyors. Mr. Angersola also suggested that one of the casino's may offer grant funding for an Indian memorial.

Dr. Stofko and Mr. Angersola had additional discussion relative to Warner cemetery and the best methodology regarding tree removal, construction of a stair way and a gate.

Audience

Nothing noted.

There being no further business to discussion, upon a motion made by Mrs. Denette, seconded by Mrs. Guinness, and carried unanimously, the Committee adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Denette