TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
Cemetery Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2022
Municipal Office Building
Meeting room 3
Via Zoom and YouTube Live

In attendance:
Cemetery Committee Members

Karl Stofko
Alison Guinness
Deb Denette
Richard Pettinelli

Call to Order

Dr. Stofko called the Cemetery Committee to order at 7:03 p.m.

Dr. Stofko noted concern with work near Ackley Cemetery Road. He was concerned that the large trucks could potentially damage the stone walls. It is believed that the area is being forested. Mr. Pettinelli noted that Planning & Zoning has not entertained any subdivision requests in the area as of late. Mrs. Guinness noted that the work is close to where the old school house foundation resides.

Adoption of Minutes

Mr. Pettinelli motioned to accept the minutes of the July 21, 2022 meeting as amended to add the date "July 19, 2022" following "Tuesday" on page 2 Cemetery visits, as it relates to poison ivy treatment at Warner Cemetery. The minutes were further amended to capitalize the "s" in "Second Yard" on page 3, second paragraph. Ms. Guinness seconded the motion to accept the minutes as amended. The minutes as amended carried unanimously via voice vote.

Distribution of Binders

Deb provided a set up cemetery binder for all. Dr. Stofko requested the ledger cemetery document and the WPA survey be incorporated. This is in addition to the tabs for, minutes, by-laws, and expenses that were not yet put together.

By-laws

After brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to forward the bylaws as drafted to

the First Selectman with a request that they be forwarded to an attorney for review. It was the preference of the Committee that the by-laws be reviewed by the town's land use attorney, however, it was recognized that we do not know which counsel would be assigned by the Selectman.

Cemetery Visits

All but Parker and Town Farm have had site visits. The property owner at the Parker cemetery needs to be contacted prior to a site visit at that parcel. Access to the cemetery needs to be reviewed.

Concerns raised from site visits:

Warner cemetery is overgrown
Every cemetery would benefit from headstone cleaning and many stones need to be reset. (Brownstones should not be cleaned0
The lack of a fence at the Bashan cemetery was deemed a safety concern.
The latch on the gate at Millington Cemetery needs adjusting to maintain closure
A Special Indian monument at the Mount Parnassus cemetery warrants further discussion.

Mr. Pettinelli has made contact with the Boy scout Troop. The troop is a young troop, however, there are opportunities for scout advancement and project accomplishment with partnership. A well advertised community clean up day at a chosen cemetery with supervision was suggested.

Indian Stone

At Mount Parnassus cemetery there is one remaining Indian marker. It is believed that there were as many as 9. Ms. Guinness had discussion with Gary O'Neil who is a Wangunk elder and he would be in favor of having the stone removed for preservation and a replica placed. The historical society would be willing to store the original marker. Mr. Pettinelli stated that he would endeavor to obtain a temporary marker. Dr. Stofko would like to have a sign erected memorializing the indigenous population interred there. Mrs. Denette stated that prior to any stone being removed, (even for safe keeping) she felt that the Selectman should be consulted as she did not know if such action was within the Committee's purvue. She also noted that a memorial plaquard of whatever type would need to be a budgeted item, and costs would need to be obtained. Ms. Guinness noted that a 2' x 3' panel would cost approximately $2,000 based on initial inquiry with a company that she works with. Mrs. Denette opined that the wording would need to be considered prior to firm quotes being solicited. A number of options were noted, such as a sign, a reproduction, a bronze plaque. Mr. Pettinelli suggested any signage be placed closer to the road so that the history could be learned from the edge of the cemetery. Perhaps a

dedication of the stone could occur next October. Dr. Stofko further stated that perhaps a publicity campaign to look for the missing stones could occur.

Payment of Bills

Motion by Ms. Guinness, seconded by Mr. Pettinelli to authorize the payment of $94.86 to Suburban Stationers for the supplies to create the binders. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discussion, upon a motion made by Mrs. Denette, seconded by Mr. Pettinelli, and carried unanimously, the Committee adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Denette