TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
Cemetery Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2023
Municipal Office Building
Meeting room 3
Via Zoom and YouTube Live

In attendance:

Cemetery Committee Members

Karl Stofko
Alison Guinness
Deb Denette
Crary Brownell
Richard Pettinelli

Others

Donald Angersola

Call to Order

Dr. Stofko called the Cemetery Committee to order at 7:01 p.m.
Mr. Brownell noted that both he and Mr. Pettinelli needed to attend the Board of Selectmen meeting at 7:30.

Adoption of Minutes

Mrs. Denette motioned to accept the minutes of the January 19, 2023 meeting as presented. Mrs. Guinness seconded the motion to accept as presented. The minutes of the January 19, 2023 meeting carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Mrs. Denette reviewed her reply to the Connecticut Cemetery Association inviting the town to join its membership, and responding to its inquiring regarding East Haddam active municipal cemeteries.

Mrs. Denette held a telephone conference with Vincent D'Amore, Esq. regarding the by-laws that the Committee drafted. Following that conversation, Attorney D'Amore separated the by-laws into two documents, one called by-laws and one called rules and procedures. He suggested identifying the cemeteries that should be closed. (Bashan, Parker, Second Yard, Town Farm Cemetery and warner Cemetery). Millington Cemetery has no additional space, but is still

honoring plots that were sold. He also suggested charging slightly more for out of town residents that wish to be buried here, but not from banning their burial here. It was also noted that since there is no town owned plots available for sale, the concern is moot at this time. All felt that it was feasible (following survey) that space may exist at Ackley, Foxtown, Mount Parnassus and Tater Hill

The Committee was in favor of revisiting the by-laws, rules and procedures at the next meeting.

Neglected Cemeteries Account Grant Program

Mrs. Denette noted that the grant application discussed in January was submitted.

The application was for removal of a trees and pruning at both Mount Parnassus and Millington Cemetery. The quote received is for $3,400 at Mount Parnassus a $2,800 at Millington. The project would involve removal of dead or diseased maple tree and a cluster of dead or diseased ash and maple on the south side of Mount Parnassus cemetery (new section), large branches are dropping, one of the larger trees in this grouping is leaning to the left. Should the tree fall it will damage the headstones in the older section of the cemetery. At Millington, pruning and removal of dead and dying trees needs to occur behind the cemetery wall, to protect the stones therein.

Veteran Update

April 29th has been slated as the date for the full day of Gravestone and Monument Preservation workshop with Jon Appel. The time has not been cemented yet. A crew of 20-25 people was identified as a a good working number. We are asked to provide buckets, brushes, water and a half yard of ¾" crushed stone.. Facilities Director Don Angersola stated that he will arrange the stone; but it will remain on a trailer so that there is no clean up afterwards. He will also arrange for a water tank. The Committee will need to arrange some sort of lunch for the workers. A registration process is suggested. Veteran Don Henson is coordinating with the instructor, Mrs. Guinness is working with Riverview Cemetery association which will pay the instructor. We would like to have some scout leaders and a few scouts in attendance as well. Mrs. Denette is to double check that we are insured for this.

Indian Stone

Mrs. Denette stated that she requested a quote from Crouch & Lagana in Portland for the replacement Indian marker, however, it has not yet been received. The wording "Here marks the final resting place of eight Wangunks, the Native people who resided on this land before the arrival of Europeans" was reviewed and blessed by the Wangunk elder Gary O'Neill in East Hampton. It was noted that final wording could be voted on by the Committee, first steps are, however, to receive a quote to work with.

Mr. Brownell and Mr. Pettinelli departed the meeting at this time.

Budget

Mrs. Denette forwarded the budget memo drafted and reviewed by the Committee last month requesting $10,000 for FY23/24 and $5,000 annually thereafter to accumulate for the purpose of ultimately surveying all of the town owned cemeteries. Additionally $3,00 was requested annually for cleaning supplies and repairing and/or replacing markers of historical importance. (the Indian stone was an example).

Cemetery visits

Dr. Stofko has been doing research at Town Farm Cemetery following a visit there. He stated that at least 14 burials occurred, there are no markers for any. The last documented burial was for Lyman Eugene Skinner who died in 1932. This is another example of where a monument should be erected. He presented all with a one page copy entitled East Haddam Town Farm 1840-1934.

Mr. Angersola stated that he is working on having additional green cemetery signs made, however, the vendor that made the prior signs has gone out of business.
Mr. Angersola stated that the warm weather has allowed for clean up crews to work at Warner cemetery. He stated that brush piles still need to be moved, but that much improvement has occurred.

Audience of Citizens

Nothing noted.

There being no further business to discuss, upon a motion made by Mrs. Guinness, seconded by Mrs. Denette the Committee adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Denette