TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
Cemetery Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 20, 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 Henson
Irma Carper Miller
Ricky Shea

Call to Order

Dr. Stofko called the Cemetery Committee to order at 7:0 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes

Mrs. Guinness motioned to accept the minutes of the June 15, 2023 meeting as amended to complete Eric Badrick's last name, and to capitalize Labor Day and Boy Scouts. Mr. Pettinelli seconded the motion to accept the minutes as amended. The minutes of the June 15, 2023 meeting carried unanimously..

Correspondence

Dr. Stofko advised that he spoke with Lynette Fisher from Connecticut Landmarks regarding Landmarks hosting of cemetery tours at the Warner Cemetery. Concerns regarding the access to the cemetery where the steps need repair and hand rails are missing were sufficient enough for them to rethink the event. ||It was also suggested that some crushed stone be added to the right of way, as it is ponding with the heavy rains. It is unclear who is responsible to maintain the right of way, although it is clear that a right of way exists. This prompted discussion on the rights of the Committee to negotiate rights of way with cemeteries. Ms. Guinness believed that they are needed for Warner, Fox Town, Parker, Second Yard and town Farm. It is recognized that there is

much work needed by the Committee, and a comprehensive list needs to be developed. It was further noted that where the committee can recognize the needs, negotiations with a property owner would need to be made through the town's attorney with the blessing of the Selectmen. Budget is also a major factor. The desire to acquire additional cemetery space was reiterated.

Veteran Update

Mr. Henson advised that additional cleaning has been occurring of stones. He stated that a couple of repairs have been made to broken stones at First Church Cemetery. A tripod has been built, supplies have been gifted or purchased thanks to the generosity of Shagbark's and the Riverview Cemetery Association. Mr. Henson noted that John Appell is conducting another workshop in the Town of Chester on August 1, 2023.

Mr. Henson also noted that the VFW has a stone for the Veterans Memorial Green donated and used to step into the gazebo. He noted that he has someone who would like to do some ariel photography and inquired if permissions were needed. Mr. Pettinelli noted that the DOT has standards on their website that should be followed.

General discussion on permissions to work on private cemeteries by the VFW was discussed. There are several revolutionary veterans buried at Hadlyme Cemetery and that property is in need of a significant amount of work. The boundaries are not currently clear.

Indian Stone

Dr. Stofko will obtain a quote from Russell Rankin for a base to the monument which has been delivered to the Town Garage.

Budget

Mrs. Denette noted that the July 11, 2023 budget vote failed. A mid-September budget vote is anticipated.

Website

The Cemetery Committee page on the Town's website page was discussed. No changes were suggested.

Payment of Bills

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Denette, seconded by Mr. Brownell approval was unanimously granted to pay the $150.00 bill from Jansky's for the use of a port-o-let during the June workshop at the Mount Parnassus Cemetery on Smith Road.

Audience of Citizens

Mrs. Irma Carper-Miller inquired if anyone knew where the Wicket stones were. The question was not answered. There being no further business to discuss, upon a motion made by Mrs. Guinness, seconded by Mr. Pettinelli the Committee adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Denette