TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
Cemetery Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2023
Municipal Office Building
Meeting room 3
Via Zoom and YouTube Live

In attendance:

Cemetery Committee Members

Karl Stofko
Alison Guinness
Crary Brownell

Others

Donald Henson
Ricky Shea

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 July 20, 2023 meeting as presented. Mr. Brownell seconded the motion to accept the minutes as presented. The minutes of the July 20, 2023 meeting carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Dr. Stofko advised that he has had no written communication, however, he received a phone call from Jim Rankin, who is going into the cemetery cleaning and restoration business. Jim Rankin is the brother of Russell Rankin. Mr. Rankin was inquiring if he could put up advertising signs at the cemeteries. Mr. Henson noted that he has seen signs (ironically in front of where the veterans had done work). Mr. Brownell noted that there is an ordinance about signage that would prohibit signage from being placed at the cemeteries.

Motion by Crary Brownell, seconded by Alison Guinness to not allow advertising in or in front of Town owned cemeteries. Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Denette is to send a formal letter advising Mr. of the Committee's decision.

Veteran Update

Discussion was held regarding a broken stone in Old Cove that was broken below the inscription. Ultimately, the veterans made a concrete base for it to stand up so that the lettering was not buried. It was noted that First Church has a spare slotted base, that if they are not using the Veterans could likely put to use.

Ms. Guinness cautioned against utilizing incompatible materials. Mr. Henson noted that they are utilizing a historic mortar in between so that it is not stone on stone.

Riverview cemetery has been providing materials for the Veterans efforts. Documentation of samples of work performed was presented to the Committee. Mr. Henson advised that the Veterans have logged 280-man hours since the beginning of July. It was emphasized that the current priority is the stones of veterans or their wives. Mr Henson also noted that the VFW has had a trailer donated to them by Trailer Depot which will make moving from cemetery to cemetery easier.

Indian Stone

The stone has been installed. Mr. Angersola was unable to attend tonight's meeting, via email, however, he defined how the stone was placed and his rationale for doing so.

Ms. Guinness opined that it looked good. Dr. Stofko opined that his experience would dictate that a concrete base should have been utilized as over time stone/rock will move when the water runs through it.

The need for a dedication was discussed. Ms. Guinness will obtain potential dates from Gary O'Neill, the Wangunk elder. A spring date may be targeted.

Mr. Shea advised that when the Indian Stone was set in Mount Parnassus Cemetery on Smith Road, the marker for the young boy was reset following removal of the stump that had displaced it.

Audience of Citizens

Nothing noted.

There being no further business to discuss, upon a motion made by Mrs. Guinness, seconded by Mr. Brownell the Committee adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Denette