TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
Cemetery Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2024
Municipal Office Building
Meeting room 3
Via Zoom and YouTube Live

In attendance:

Cemetery Committee Members

Karl Stofko
Crary Brownell
Alison Guinness

Others

Donald Angersola

Call to Order

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

Adoption of Minutes

Dr. Stofko tabled action on the minutes of October 19, 2023.

Correspondence

Nothing noted.

Veteran Update

The Veterans were not present, however, Dr. Stofko noted that they are on hiatus due to the winter weather. He praised the work that they have accomplished.

Indian Stone

A spring date is being targeted. Mrs. Guinness stated that she has made another phone call to Gary O'Neil to target a date. Discussion on the type of publicity that would be needed also ensued.

Three Bridges Cemetery

Dr. Stofko noted that a draft easement was prepared by Committee Member Deb Denette, although she was not present tonight to discuss it. The document was noted to be lengthier than needed. Dr. Stofko noted indifference to the comments relative to structures and subdividing, however, it was noted to be boiler plate language that could be applicable to other easements in the future. It was noted that Mr. Ventres also reviewed the document. It was noted that after the Committee had approved the draft, it would be forwarded for review by the town's attorney.

Motion by Alison Guiness, seconded by Crary Brownell, to move the draft easement forward to the town attorney for review. The motion carried unanimously.

Other

Mr. Brownell noted that the committee had homework to discuss priorities, particularly prior to the budget. Mr. Angersola stated that the facilities department (under the selectmen) have a maintenance budget for the cemeteries, however, that addresses trees, mowing, and stone walls, it does not address headstones. It was noted that the budget was cut last year responsive to the budget not passing on its first two tries. Dr. Stofko would like to see a budget established to repair stones, such as what the veterans are doing, however, they are focusing on repair to veteran's stones, and there are many others in dire need of attention. Mr. Angersola noted that Three Bridges Cemetery is a priority due to the large number of dead trees around the cemetery. It was Mr. Angersola's recollection that a capital reserve budget was established to grow cemetery funds for use on larger projects.

Discussion was also held regarding return of markers that were removed for mowing purposes. Today's weed whackers do not harm the stones as the ones in the past had.

Audience of Citizens

Nothing noted.

There being no further business to discuss, it was noted that February 15 and March 21 are the next scheduled meetings.

There being no other business, upon a motion made by Mrs. Guinness, seconded by Mr. Brownell the Committee adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Denette