TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
Cemetery Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2024
Municipal Office Building, Meeting room 3
Via Zoom and YouTube Live

In attendance:

Cemetery Committee Members:

Karl Stofko
Crary Brownell
Alison Guinness
Richard Pettinelli
Debra Denette

Call to Order

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

Adoption of Minutes. Ms. Guinness motioned to approve the minutes of April 18, 2024 as amended to reflect that Mr. Pettinelli was not in attendance. Mr. Brownell seconded the motion. The motion adopting the minutes as amended carried unanimously via voice vote.

Communications

Mrs. Denette stated that she spoke with both Biega and Spencer funeral homes. Both were in agreement that allowing a cremation to be placed on top of an existing burial is common practice. Also, only one marker per site should be allowed. A flush marker for the new cremation is also acceptable as is additional carving on the existing stone. Jeff Lunt at Biega's stated that the funeral home assures documentation prior to the burial, (meaning they will assure that there is a deed and next of kin is in agreement). Mrs. Denette relayed to Anthony Witaker who is looking to be buried at the plots for Woodard and Janet Roberts at Mount Parnassus Cemetery that the Committee would allow the additional burial as long as all of the paperwork is in place.

Three Bridges Cemetery.

Mrs. Denette stated that she has followed up with the selectmen on the three Bridges Cemetery. She stated that the Selectman advised that she did not like the tone of the letter. The letter was drafted to be an explanation of the Easement, which is what the Committee asked to have reviewed by the attorney. She was advised that she has asked the Land Use Administrator to commence discussions with the property owner for potential purchase of the land behind the

Mount Parnassus Cemetery for future expansion. Mrs. Denette expressed frustration with the communication from administration. She noted that communication, in her opinion, has always been lack luster regardless of who is in the first Selectmen's office.

The Committee asked that a follow up memo be drafted to the Selectman to emphasize the importance of moving forward with the easement.
It was determined to send a follow up memorandum "Attached please find and draft easement dated XXX Please advise of the status of the review by the town attorney. This easement is required to access a historically important cemetery that the town maintains that resides on private property. The Chairman should be the signatory of the letter.

Veteran Update

No veterans were present. Deb noted that the Veterans held a successful community clean up day at North Moodus Cemetery the end of April and were out in full force at the Cemetery's clean up day on May 11th. Unfortunately, despite reaching out to the boy Scouts, the High School and advertising in both the newspaper and on facebook, no new faces came to the Town's event.

Budget Update

The budget passed on May 14, 2024. It is believed that the budget included $8,000 in capital and $2,500 in operating.

Invoice

Mrs. Denette has received the invoice from Jansky's Rubbish for the port-o-let utilized at Mount Parnassus Cemetery for the dedication of the Indian Stone and the spring clean up workshop. The bill was $175.00. Motion by Mr. Brownell, seconded by Mrs. Denette to authorize payment. The motion carried unanimously.

Audience of Citizens - Nothing noted.

Dr. Stofko noted that the headstone of Mark Phillips has been broken and is in pieces. He has been trying to locate the broken piece without success.

There being no other business, upon a motion made by Mrs. Denette, seconded by Mr. Pettinelli the Committee adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Denette