TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
Cemetery Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2024
Municipal Office Building, Meeting room 3
Via Zoom and YouTube Live

In attendance:

Cemetery Committee Members:

Karl Stofko, Chairman
Alison Guinness
Richard Pettinelli
Debra Denette, Secretary
Rick Shea - Facilities

Call to Order

Dr. Stofko called the Cemetery Committee to order at 7:03 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes. Mrs. Guinness motioned to approve the minutes of May 16, 2024 as written. Mr. Pettinelli seconded the motion. The motion adopting the minutes carried unanimously via voice vote.

Communications

Following the last meeting, the First Selectman contacted both Mrs. Denette and Mr. Brownell and asked that the letter discussed in the May minutes not be sent. Mrs. Denette relayed that securing additional land around Mount Parnassus cemetery seemed to have more appeal to it to the first selectman than adding an additional cemetery to the town owned parcels even though it is presently being maintained by the town. It was relayed to both Crary and Deb that when there was information to relay it would be delivered and that "these things take time". Deb followed up with Mrs. Zeminieski prior to this meeting, and there was nothing new to report. Dr. Stofko noted that protocol should have had the communication with the Board Chairman.

Mrs. Denette noted that another correspondence dated May 23, 2024 was received from the First Selecmen (to Dr. Stofko and the secretary) that read:

…Your 23/24 capital carryover is $13,000. There will be no additional amount added to that for FY 24/25. $2,000 is in the operating budget.

Three Bridges Cemetery.

Mostly discussed under communications, however, it was noted that there are a substantial amount of dead/dying trees around the cemetery, which has been a concern of the Facilities Director and noted that it may be an impediment to moving negotiations forward with the property owner.

Veteran Update

No veterans were present. Deb noted that the Cemetery Troopers have been very busy at the North Moodus Cemetery repairing and straightening headstones that were damaged due to a felled tree that came down in a hurricane.

Dr. Stofko would like the minutes to document stones repaired by the Cemetery Troopers.

Budget Update

Revisions given earlier under communication. Mr. Pettinelli suggested that we obtain quotes for the survey work we would like done so that we can properly document what is needed for capital.

Spencer Stones

Mrs. Guinness advised the Board that the stones that were vandalized at the Nathan Hale Memorial have been replicated. Rick Shea noted that one of the stones were re-set today. Dr. Stofko is working on genealogy to find a next of kin so that the existing stones can be repaired as the stones are the property of the family and approval would be required. It was also noted that a paper trail has not been located from when the stones were moved from Millington to the Nathan Hale schoolhouse site.

Rick Shea noted that facilities has been keeping up with mowing the grass. He also noted that there is a road issue at Second yard, as the road has washed out.

Audience of Citizens –

Nothing noted.

Parking lot item

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

The next meeting will be July 18, 2024

There being no other business, upon a motion made by Mrs. Denette, seconded by Mr. Pettinelli the Committee adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Denette