TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
Cemetery Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 15, 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

Others

None

Call to Order

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

Adoption of Minutes

Mrs. Guinness motioned to approve the minutes of October 19, 2023 and January 18, 2024 as presented. Mr. Brownell seconded the motion. The motion adopting both sets of minutes carried unanimously via voice vote.

Correspondence

Nothing noted.

Veteran Update

The Veterans were not present, however, Mrs. Denette stated that she had spoken with Don Hanson of the Cemetery Troopers regarding their fundraising efforts. They had a truck donated to them to keep supplies in for the cemetery work, however, it had such structural issues. They need to obtain a new one. At the time of the call, they were hopeful that Consumers Union might be able to assist, however, their PILOT goes to the town, and not a group working with the Town. Mrs. Denette noted that perhaps the next cemetery budget should include funds for

equipment (a tripod was identified) the veterans could use in their work that is improving town cemeteries.

It had been learned that the first year after establishment, the cemetery committee had a $3,500 budget line (which was used to purchase the Indian Stone) the second year of the Committee that operating line was removed as budget's continually failed, but a capital reserve line item of $13,000 was established. For 24/25 budget, there is presently no budget again for operating (although there is for maintenance) and the capital reserve line will be reduced to $8,000.

Indian Stone

A spring date is being targeted. Mrs. Guinness stated that she has spoken to Gary O'Neil who promised to provide some dates when he returned from Washington DC.

Three Bridges Cemetery

Mrs. Denette noted that she forwarded the draft to the Selectman's Office for review by the attorney, however, she has not had any response. She added that she attempted follow up last Friday; but the Selectman was unavailable and Ms. Z. was unaware of the status.

Other

Budget

The Committee discussed the 24/25 budget, which is being compiled now. It was determined to request an increase to the capital budget from the proposed $8,000 to $10,000. These funds are to be built up for the purpose of surveying, laying out additional space, land acquisition, etcetera As the budget was completely cut, the Committee shall ask for restoration. $5,000 will be requested to be utilized for stone preservation/repair of historically important stones. This was noted to be separate from Don Angersola's budget which is for maintenance of the grounds (mowing, tree removal and stone wall repair).

Discussion of the dates was held, the Committee was given the option of Thursday 2/29 (6:30) or Saturday 2/24 when Mr. Angersola presented his budget. It was suggested that the presentations remain separate as they are for completely different items.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday March 21, 2024.

Audience of Citizens

Nothing noted.

There being no other business, upon a motion made by Mrs. Guinness, seconded by Mr. Brownell the Committee adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Denette