

**EASTON CEMETERY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

March 8, 2017 7:00 PM

Senior Center

Minutes

Present: Phil Doremus, Gary Haines, Joan Kirk, Ray Longo

Absent: Shaun Malay, Ray Longo

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chairman, Gary Haines.

1. **Review and approve minutes from the Regular Meeting on February 8, 2017**

Corrections: Item 2 should read **"Gary picked up the leaves that Wayne had raked."**

Item 4: Eliminate the last sentence. The 2 more stones to be set are in **Lyons Cemetery**.

Item 5: Add the sentence that a **"\$2,000 grant money was given to the Committee by the State of Connecticut Neglected Cemetery Grant."** Minutes approved as corrected. (Phil/Gary)

2. **Update on Lyon Cemetery by Wayne Lyon**

Wayne sent a report regarding work done. There were 8 head stones repaired and 2 new bases put in.

3. **Update on Center Street Cemetery**

Need to re-set 12 more stones.

Dedication of the "Potter's Field" will be in May or June. Phil suggested an article in the paper announcing this event beforehand. A Religious Leader will be contacted to speak at the event. Tree work completed.

Rails and chains to be repaired with grant money. The rails are a priority.

4. **Update on the Gilbertown headstone setting and repairs**

Approximately 15 to 20 more stones need to be re-set.

5. **Proposed inventory of tombstones at Gilbertown Cemetery**

Joel Barlow High School students must do community service. Gary received a call from the school asking about work that needs to be done. The photos of Gilbertown stones need to be updated and an inventory of the stones updated. It was suggested the students do this project digitally and post on the Easton website.

6. **Update on the plan for the utilization of Grant**

The money from the state grant will be used for rail and chain replacement in Gilbertown Cemetery. Three bidders will be solicited.

7. **Update on Historical Society proposal for cemetery workshop in April**

Nothing new to report.

8. **Workday discussion on April 22nd or 29th**

April 22nd at 9:00AM in Gilbertown Cemetery is the workday with a raid date of April 29th.

9. **Other Business**

Phil spoke with Darrin Silhavy, Sexton of Union Cemetery. Darrin is exploring possibilities of how to maintain the Cemetery. Phil said members of the Cemetery Committee would be willing to meet with him.

Gary distributed a copy of the report to be included in the Annual Report (Attached.

Motion to adjourn at 7:30 PM. (Ray/Gary)

Submitted by,

Joan Kirk

EASTON CEMETERY COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

The Cemetery Committee's restoration and maintenance goals were successfully met with the help of a small group of dedicated volunteers. During the 2015-16 fiscal year we held 29 workdays in Gilbertown, Lyon and Center Street cemeteries with a team of trained volunteers from last year's pool of workers.

The tasks accomplished during our workdays this fiscal year were; resetting and/or repair of 27 headstones and the installation of 4 new bases in Gilbertown cemetery, 8 headstones, 2 footstones, and the installation of 2 new granite bases in Lyon cemetery.

The Committee's current restoration and maintenance goals are focused in the following areas:

1. Reset headstones that are leaning in our cemeteries;
2. Install new fabricated bases for tombstones that have broken below ground level and are too short to reset;
3. Repair with epoxy, the remaining headstones that have broken above ground level;
4. Reset footstones in Gilbertown cemetery;
5. Replace missing steel railings along perimeter of family plots in Center Street and Gilbertown cemeteries.

Other Committee accomplishments not aforementioned:

1. Provided consistent landscape maintenance and leaf/debris removal in Lyon Cemetery.
2. Removed 9 trees that were leaning toward and posed a threat to the tombstones along the northern border of Center Street cemetery. Also, removed approximately 30 feet off the top of the large Norway spruce which was leaning and a threat to the tombstones at Center Street and Aspetuck cemeteries.
3. Safety pruned and removed low hanging limbs on 3 Sugar maples at Lyon cemetery. Also, removed 25 feet off the top and cut back the longer lateral branches on a Sugar maple, along the southern boundary, which is leaning and posing a threat to the cemetery.
4. Identified and marked the 18' X 18' memorial plot encompassing 8 grave plots acquired by the Town in 1904 at Center Street cemetery.

Installed 4 cornerstones and the base for the memorial plaque at that location in Center Street cemetery.

The Committee would like to express their heartfelt appreciation to all the volunteers who have dedicated their time to maintaining our town's cemeteries.

Prepared by Gary Haines and Phillip Doremus