

Calais Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2016

Town Hall

Present: John Simanskas, Fletcher Dean, Juanita Nunn, Jennifer Whitman, Randy Koch

Guests: Sexton Wyatt Healey, Denise Wheeler

John called the meeting to order at 7:15.

Minutes of the July 27th Commissioners' meeting were reviewed and approved.

Sexton's Report:

Wyatt reported that eyelets have been installed in the granite posts in Ainsworth Cemetery in preparation for the chain link fencing to be completed this week. The Shortt Cemetery fencing is next on his list. He has measured Janes Cemetery for 2017 fence replacement. Approximately 45 granite posts will need to be purchased. He reported that New Fairview and Robinson Cemeteries have room for new graves. Hudson will also be available when mapping of the plots is finished.

Wyatt asked to increase the interment price approved at July meeting from \$850 to \$900. Randy moved to approve the increase, effective 1/1/2017. Juanita 2nd. Approved.

Condition of Cemeteries:

Randy has not had success in contacting Kevin Wallbridge to assess headstone repairs in cemeteries where he has completed pressure washing. A discussion followed about the high costs of individual headstone/memorial repairs versus community expectation of cemetery appearance. Jennifer reported that she had recently attended an end of life presentation, "Ending Well," by Michelle Acciavatti at the Unitarian Church which included the topic of "green burials." www.ending-well.com Fletcher recommended a public forum to raise awareness about green burials, the costs and challenges of maintaining cemeteries, and a paradigm shift from traditional to future visions of what cemeteries and death ceremonies mean to us. Jennifer will invite Michelle to attend the September 28 Cemetery Commission meeting and also to lead a public forum at the Maple Corner Community Center in late October.

Calais Fall Foliage Event:

Jennifer reported that the Calais Historical Society and the Old West Church Ass. have tentatively agreed to co-sponsor with Cem. Comm. horse-drawn wagon rides on Sat. Oct 8. Rides would cost \$5/person for the 1st 2 hrs. (Kent Tavern-Robinson Cemetery) and \$10/person for the last hr. from Kent Tavern-Old West Church Cemetery). Jennifer moved to hire Paul Ruta for \$400 to be split among the three organizations. Any share of the Cem. Comm.'s profit from the event to be deposited in the Endowment. Fletcher 2nd. Approved.

General Discussion:

John reported on a dispute over the number of plots in New Fairview Cemetery originally paid for by a resident. Wyatt will re-issue a six-plot deed.

John has begun mapping New Fairview on a software system - CAD (Computer Aided Design). Fletcher showed a promotional video from Pontem for multiple software applications to help communities with mapping. He will investigate further. www.pontem.com

John will get a quote from VT Expert Tree Service for annual alternate street-side trimming of the Fairview Cemeteries. He'll inquire with Twin Cities Motel about their cedar tree pruner.

Commissioners reviewed the current Profit and Loss statement. John is designated to sign off on work orders. Randy will be the alternate.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55.

Cemetery Commission meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month in summer and bi-monthly thereafter.

Next meeting September 28, 2016

7 PM

Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Fletcher Dean

August 31, 2016