

Calais Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2016

Town Clerk's Office

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

Guests: Sexton Wyatt Healey

John called the meeting to order at 7:10.

Minutes of the September 28th Commissioners' meeting were reviewed and approved.

In response to last month's presentation on green burials, there was discussion about amending the Calais Cemetery Rules and Regulations to allow for "vault-free" burials, and also advocating for a change in state rules and regulations from a minimum burial depth of 5 feet to 3 ½ feet.

Endowment:

Balance as of Sept. 2016: \$ 128,184.62. There was also discussion regarding the Cemetery Endowment's investments. The trustees had asked Rep. Ancel last Legislative session to introduce a bill to change VT statutes allowing for investment in the VT Community Foundation to allow for better financial returns. It was not introduced. Fletcher will contact Rep. Ancel to introduce this bill in the new session, as well as a bill for a change in minimum burial depth regulations.

Sexton's Report:

Prior to the meeting Wyatt had prepared and circulated his report with budget updates and proposals for Fiscal Year 2017-18 to commissioners. Poplar Hill Cemetery will not be an issue, remaining in private ownership for at least the next year. It was decided to move annual hedge trimming at Fairview Cemeteries from the special projects to regular maintenance budget. Wage increases were also proposed. Randy will get a quote from Kevin Wallbridge for cleaning and repairing headstones in the Fairview Cemeteries. John will submit the proposed budget of \$42,900 (increase of \$7,900) and a separate line for special projects of \$6,100 (decrease of \$7,900) which is level funded compared to the present fiscal year.

General Discussion:

Jennifer reported that the October event at the Maple Corner Community Center with speaker Michelle Acciavatti of "Ending Well" was a success and that MCC would like to sponsor future events covering more related topics.

John will install signs at Ainsworth and Hudson Cemeteries.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20

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

Next meeting January 25, 2017

7 PM

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Respectfully submitted,

Fletcher Dean

November 22, 2016