

Calais Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2018

Town Office

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

Guests: Laura Dailey, Andy Christianson, Laura Brown

John called the meeting to order at 7:05.

**Sexton's Report:** Not available

**Poplar Hill Cemetery:** Andy reported back from the Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> Poplar Hill site visit by the Calais Select Board, Calais Cemetery Commission, Poplar Hill Cemetery Association, US Army Corps of Engineers and Dept. of Environmental Conservation - Lakes and Ponds Division. The visit was to assess strategies and potential costs and financial resources for remediating the eroded bank at the rear of the cemetery, and how to prevent further erosion. Both outside agencies said that since the lakeshore would not be impacted by the work done above, then no permits would be required. They gave examples of previous river bank erosion controls. There was also discussion about bringing in fill to redirect slope runoff and the planting of many trees as is often done with river bank restoration. Jennifer suggested reaching out to cemeteries damaged by Hurricane Irene to learn what recovery resources they tapped into. Laura D. wondered if Vermont Technical College engineering students might be able take on the challenge. Andy will make a formal request for \$1,500 from the E. Montpelier Select Board in December to match Calais' potential grant, in order to pay for regular mowing and maintenance in the 2019 season. The Poplar Hill Ass. has \$1,386 remaining in their bank account.

**FY 2019 Expense Report:** John expressed appreciation to Treasurer Sandra Ferver for the clarity of the new income and expenses format. Total expenses to date - \$34,625.63. Remaining funds - \$28,703.36.

**FY 2020 Budget and Town Report:** Fletcher will write up the report to the Select Board for the Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. Highlights: Current RfP for a mowing and maintenance contractor for the 2019 season (deadline Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>), finish headstone washing and repair projects in Old Fairview (middle and lower sections) and New Fairview, trim cedar hedges at Old Fairview, repair fences at Old West Church and Robinson Hill Cemeteries, straighten and repair headstones at Robinson Hill. Jennifer volunteered to handle administrative duties related to burials and communication with the contractor, customers and funeral homes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

The Cemetery Commission meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month in summer, excluding July, and bi-monthly thereafter.

**Next meeting November 14, 2018 - 7 PM**

**Town Office**

Respectfully submitted,

Fletcher Dean

October 30, 2018