

Calais Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2018

Town Office

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

Guests: Sexton Wyatt Healey, Andy Christianson

John called the meeting to order at 7:10.

Minutes of the commissioners' May 23rd meeting and May 27th special mtg. were reviewed and approved.

Poplar Hill Cemetery: Andy Christianson, board member of the Poplar Hill Cemetery Association, was invited to give commissioners background on the cemetery. About five years ago a powerful rain and windstorm caused severe bank erosion; putting about 4-6 graves in peril should a similar future natural disaster strike in the same area. The association was unable to secure grants to remediate the bank. The estimated costs would be in the tens of thousands of dollars. Their remaining funds cover only maintenance through this season and the association has voted to dissolve. Wyatt is their sexton. Annual maintenance costs have been about \$3,500. By statute, the town of Calais will assume ownership and responsibility for the cemetery in October. John reported that Denise Wheeler has notified town attorney Jim Barlow and his services will be needed to facilitate the transfer of the deed. A question arose as to whether a survey will be necessary. Andy will email the commissioners maps and a copy of the deed as well as pertinent historical documents. He also stated that association members remain committed to the well-being of the cemetery and have promised to help with any volunteer projects.

Sexton's Report: There was \$2,350 in income from burials in fiscal year 2017-18.

2017-18 Budget: the final balance for the end of FY 2017-18 was unavailable at the time of the meeting. It was noted that the town office is transitioning a new accounting system for the new fiscal year.

Endowment Balance: also not available

Old Fairview Cemetery: Randy reported on the final bids for cleaning and repair of the headstones in the upper section. One was more than had been budgeted for the work but the other quotes were for cleaning only or considerably higher with repairs. He made a motion to hire Joe Magnon for the job. Juanita seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50.

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

Next meeting August 22, 2018, 7 PM

Town Office

Respectfully submitted,

Fletcher Dean, July 2, 2018