

Calais Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2017

Town Clerk's Office

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

Guest: Sexton Wyatt Healey

John called the meeting to order at 7:10.

Minutes of the April 26 meeting were reviewed and approved after a correction to include Jennifer who was present. Minutes of the May 1 special meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Sexton's Report:** Wyatt reported that flags had been placed on all veterans' graves prior to Memorial Day, with extra help at Robinson Cemetery from a Calais Elementary School class. He had earlier emailed his report concerning funds remaining in the FY 16/17 budget with a breakdown of expenses, labor and materials involved in burials. The lack of a local dumping space for the removal of dirt continues to present problems. He has been advised that hiring Alfred Larrabee to excavate graves may present a conflict of interest as a town employee, and will therefore contract with another excavator for an upcoming burial. He suggested the Commission may want to review burial fees which will now be paid to the town instead of Wyatt. His former method of daily gas reimbursement for employee's use of their own vehicles to transport equipment, will now be replaced by including time spent driving the vehicles to the job site. Finally, he reported that a Calais resident had called his home to complain angrily about mowed grass sprayed on gravestones. His mother had taken the brunt of the caller's ire. Commissioners agreed that such disrespectful behavior is unacceptable and will monitor the situation.

**FY 16/17 Budget:** Commissioners reviewed the budget to date.

**Endowment and Investments Bill H. 5:** Endowment balance as of April 30 is \$133,216.11. There was no update on H. 5 but it is assumed the bill is on the Gov's desk.

**2017 Projects:** Randy has one bid for headstone washing and repair at Fairview Cemetery. He will seek a second bid. John will contact VT Expert Tree Service to schedule the annual trim of hedges at Fairview. Jennifer presented available dates in June for a work day at Bliss Cemetery. TBD.

**Green Burials:** Jennifer presented informational packets addressing best safety practices and start up tips for cemetery operators. All info can be accessed at [www.greenburialcouncil.org](http://www.greenburialcouncil.org). She said an expert may be available to give a workshop for sextons and commissioners.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20.

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

Next meeting June 28, 2017

7 PM

Town Clerk's Office

Respectfully submitted,

Fletcher Dean,

May 31, 2016