

Calais Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

October 16 and 19, 2014

Town Clerk's Office

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

Guest: Sexton Wyatt Healey, Scott Bassage, Denise Wheeler

John called the meeting to order at 7:05.

Minutes of the September 25th Commissioners' meeting were reviewed and corrected to reflect the attendance of Jennifer W. and also credit Jennifer for co-writing with Randy the cemetery section of the Town Plan draft. Approved.

SEXTON'S REPORT:

Fall cleanup is going well. Wyatt was able to salvage granite posts for fencing at Old Fairview Cemetery. Requests for plots at Hudson Cemetery have been coming in. He needs submerged survey corner markers. Also needed is a curb cut application for access road and culvert. Plan is to have work completed by May 1, 2015.

Wyatt also presented a list of headstone issues needing attention, by cemetery, totaling 1,211, in seven categories, such as broken, leaning, foundation, etc. Slanting stones are the highest priority since they are vulnerable to snapping off. Foundations are also a critical need.

OLD WEST CHURCH CEMETERY:

Need to reinforce and straighten fence posts.

ROBINSON CEMETERY:

Wyatt would like to finish the fence and fill in sunken areas

TOWN PLAN DRAFT:

Commissioners reviewed and made a few edits on Randy and Jennifer's Cemetery Mission Statement draft. John made a motion to approve and Juanita 2nd. Approved. Randy will send to Donna Fitch to proofread and then on to the Planning Commission.

OTHER BUSINESS:

John reported that Representative Janet Ancel will introduce a bill in the upcoming legislative session to allow citizens from outside of town to serve on cemetery commissions.

VIRTUAL AND ACTUAL TOURS:

Randy, Juanita and Scott demonstrated the early stages of the virtual tour of the town cemeteries, to be hosted on the town's website.

Randy and Fletcher reported on their informative meeting earlier in the day with Patrick Healy, Director of the Green Mount Cemetery in Montpelier.

At 9:20 it was agreed that the meeting would continue

4 PM, Sunday, October 19th at Fairview Cemetery

Present: Fletcher Dean, Juanita Hudson, Jennifer Whitman

Guest: Sexton Wyatt Healy

Wyatt led commissioners in a walkthrough of Old and New Fairview Cemeteries to view, discuss and photograph the deteriorating headstones and monuments. Examples included a large leaning monument, cracks or breaks in formerly repaired stones, a marble headstone reduced to near rubble, hairline cracks in a monument, top sections knocked off by falling tree limbs, a sunken flat grass marker needing re-setting, a horizontal stone tilted with its base fully upended.

Fletcher is in communication with VT Youth Conservation Corps directors at U-32 High School who have offered assistance such as headstone straightening in the spring.

Wyatt has straightened and installed the salvaged granite fence posts on the upper side of Old Fairview. Boards to be installed to match the boards across the street.

Wyatt recommends that Commissioners get bids this fall for Fairview's hedge trimming in 2015. He also recommends Old West Church Cemetery for the next headstone washing project.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20.

Cemetery Commission meets the third Thursday of the month in summer and bi-monthly thereafter.

Next meeting Thursday, November 20, 2014

7 PM

Town Clerk's Office

Respectfully submitted,

Fletcher Dean,

October 22, 2014