

Calais Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2017

Town Office

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

Guest: Sexton Wyatt Healey, Treasurer Donna Fitch, Trustee Rod Buck, Barb Baird, Mack Gardner-Morse

John called the meeting to order at 7:05.

**Endowment:** Rod Buck reported from the Trustees of Public Funds meeting held earlier in the day. He explained how H. 5, the legislative bill that was designed to broaden investment opportunities, had been amended in committee at the last minute to restrict some of those possibilities. He then went over the current portfolio investments' individual returns. The trustees' strategy over the next 15 months is to reduce cash and gradually increase investments in equities and fixed income.

**Treasurer's Report:** Donna Fitch will email copies of Wyatt's time sheets to commissioners. She ran through the Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual, explaining each allocation. She handed out copies of the new Deed to Convey Burial Rights. This will replace the present registry form.

**Headstone washing:** Barb Baird of Cabot is a member of the VT Old Cemetery Association and has voluntarily cleaned the headstones in Janes Cemetery. She uses only water, soft bristle brushes and a non-toxic fungicide. Fletcher joined her for a hands-on lesson last month. She expressed interest in helping clean a section of Old Fairview Cemetery. She has also offered to do a training for volunteers in mid-May. John and Randy have not yet received a cleaning bid that meets our budget allocation.

Minutes of the September 27 Commissioners' meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Sexton's Report:** Wyatt reported that he has reduced work hours in the past month and will close the cemeteries on Sunday, Oct 29. VT Expert Tree Service has trimmed hedges of Old Fairview Cemeteries.

Dec. 11 is the deadline for submitting FY 2018/19 budget (November 15th meeting).

**Other business:** Mack Gardner-Morse expressed appreciation for the appearance and maintenance of Old West Church Cemetery and for the commissioners' and sexton's efforts in general.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50.

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

**Next meeting November 15, 2017 (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday!)**

**7 PM**

**Town Office**

Respectfully submitted,

Fletcher Dean

October 30, 2017