

Calais Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2021

Town Hall & via Zoom

Present: John Simanskas, Fletcher Dean, Juanita Nunn, Randy Koch (Zoom)

Guests: Diane Simanskas, Joe and Kaira Mangan

Minutes of the October 27th meeting were reviewed. Juanita noted that "Vermont" was missing as part of the Old Cemetery Association. With that change, the minutes were approved.

Sexton's Report: Joe reported that he had repaired two broken headstones in Shortt Cemetery, repaired 25 stones in Robinson and hung the sign in Ainsworth. All cemeteries are now closed except for Poplar where plot sales are pending. He sold a few more green burial plots in Robinson, requiring expansion of that section. He recommends purchasing and planting six more trees in the spring. He will write up new Rules and Regulations, using those from other nearby towns as a template. Upon commissioners' approval, he will have them posted on the Calais website. He asked for an additional \$2,500 in his contract to compensate for this year's steep rise in gas prices. After some discussion about the fluctuating nature of gas prices, Fletcher suggested it be added as a "fuel surcharge" to be reviewed annually. Juanita made a motion to accept the contract with the added surcharge to be reviewed next November. Fletcher seconded. Approved. Joe will revise his contract bid, changing maintenance dates to May 1 - October 31 and sexton duties year round.

Financial report and Fiscal Year 2021/22 budget: Commissioners reviewed the budget and expenses. The endowment balance as of October 31 was \$235,255.53.

Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget plan: The Trustees recommend applying 4% of the endowment balance (\$9,400) toward next year's budget. Commissioners decided to level fund another year, adding the \$2,500 fuel surcharge, which totals \$51,900. Subtracting \$9,400, the proposed budget is \$42,500. Since the costs and logistics of replacing the two fences in the Historic District's Old West Church and Robinson Cemeteries are unresolved, commissioners propose a separately warned article for \$20,000 toward those projects. Fletcher made a motion to approve both articles and John 2nd. Approved.

Old Fairview Bliss Section Trust: Fletcher read a letter he will mail to the trustees for compensation from the trust for annual mowing and maintenance, plus costs for past headstone cleaning and repair.

Other business: Fletcher announced that he will step down from the commission when his term expires at Town Meeting. He will also write up a 2021 summary for the Town Report, due Dec. 15.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35.

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

Next meeting

February 23, 7 PM - Town Hall

Respectfully submitted, Fletcher Dean, November 21, 2021