

Calais Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2014

Town Clerk's Office

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

Guest: Sexton Wyatt Healey

John called the meeting to order at 7:05.

Minutes of the October 16th and 19th Commissioners' meeting were reviewed and approved.

SEXTON'S REPORT:

Of this year's budget \$21,694 has been spent, leaving \$6,840 to begin next spring's work. Fence sections of Robinson and Old Fairview Cemeteries have been repaired and installed.

Wyatt proposed a new burial fee structure paid to the town instead of him, with an additional set dollar amount to go toward the Endowment, which the Trustees have advised us to increase. He would then be reimbursed by the town.

Discussion followed about labor costs, equipment and infrastructure work needed for Fiscal Year 2015/16.

Priorities for 2015:

1. Trim hedges at Old and New Fairview Cemeteries. John will ask for three bids, work to be completed by end of August.
2. Paint Robinson Cemetery fence
3. Install vinyl chain link fencing at Shortt and Ainsworth Cemeteries

Wyatt suggested that the U-32 VYCC crew may be able to help clear brush and invasive plants in early April if the ground is still too wet for headstone straightening.

HUDSON CEMETERY:

John will apply for curb cut permit to install culvert by the road crew.

VIRTUAL TOUR:

Randy reported some difficulty working with the town website but has been able to upload some pictures. Juanita will add text. Commissioners expressed confidence in using the tour as one way to help Calais residents see the results of years of deferred maintenance and the need for increased financial support to bring our cemeteries into acceptable state of being. There was also a suggestion of using the Front Porch Forum as a vehicle to get the topic in people's minds.

FY 2015/16 BUDGET:

After considering Wyatt's detailed proposal for the budget and looking at all the work that should be completed ASAP, commissioners agreed to set the budget at \$49,000. This would include \$35,000 for Wyatt's regular maintenance, approximately \$5,000 to trim the hedges at Fairview, and the rest going toward, painting Robinson fence, installing vinyl chain link fencing at Shortt, Ainsworth and Janes, and pressure washing headstones at Old West Church.

Randy will explore ways to determine expenses per project such as headstone repair, resetting foundations, pressure washing headstones, painting fences, etc., so that commissioners can more accurately project costs for future work needed.

Jennifer will review neighboring towns' cemetery budgets vs. number and size of cemeteries for comparison purposes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30.

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

Next meeting January 15, 2015

7 PM

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Respectfully submitted,

Fletcher Dean,

November 23, 2014