

Calais Cemetery Commission
Minutes of meeting Apr. 26 2023

Present:

Juanita Nunn, Chair

Michael Fullerton

Shari Fitch

Sage Kennedy

Joe Mangan, Sexton

Absent: Laura Daily, Secretary

Called to order at 6:04 PM at the town hall.

No changes proposed to the agenda.

New committee member Sage Kennedy was introduced.

Election of officers for current year:

Juanita Nunn Chair

Michael Fullerton Vice Chair

Laura Daily Secretary

Agendas of meetings Feb 22 and Town Meeting update approved with no change.

Sexton's report:

Joe noted that all cemeteries are now open. Cleaning has been done at Shortt Cemetery and is progressing in the others which should all be neat and ready for Memorial Day.

Robinson Cemetery green burial area is filling up. We need to discuss expanding it. This will be looked at when we do an inventory of all cemeteries in May. (See below) There may be land available for purchase if we need it. We will have to identify the heirs etc. of Stanley Fitch, the late owner. Fairview Cemetery also has an 11 acre parcel which might be purchased much of which would also be good green burial land.

Hudson cemetery has space and there is also land which might be available if needed.

All of the land purchases would have to go through the Select Board and at this point are just ideas.

Joe noted that several burials are scheduled in the next few weeks in Robinson and Fairview. Mowing will begin in a week or so and his crew is ready for the season.

NEMRC training and town laptop use:

This was to involve various members of the commission using a town laptop to learn how to enter data for an eventual base of information that would allow anyone to quickly locate any burial site. The process is not complicated, but researching a number of different records will take time. The training has been delayed as the laptop is out for repair or possible replacement.

Town Meeting:

It was reported that Sage Kennedy and Michael Fullerton were nominated and elected to the commission. We had planned to ask the town for an additional \$1,000 for our budget to cover the unexpected cost of more work on the Robinson Cemetery fence due to a misunderstanding of the requirements. Happily, our endowment has done very well since the end of the last fiscal year and we will take the money from that. (Due to earlier poor performance we had decided to forgo an annual withdrawal). Juanita will invite Rodney Buck, who manages the fund, to a future meeting to discuss the fund.

Ainsworth cemetery fence repair/replacement.

That item is not scheduled immediately but will need to be addressed. The fence is wood in front and faux chain at the sides. Much of the wood is in poor shape. We will decide whether to replace the wood or replace it with more chain. More discussion is needed.

Old West Church (O.W.C.) fence replacement.

We need to meet with the Old West Church Assn. to discuss the fence replacement there. O.W.C. is anxious to get the project moving as this is their 200th anniversary celebration. We have \$10,000 budgeted and the O.W.C. has promised to contribute more toward an estimated \$17,000. Juanita will contact them and arrange a meeting.

This is a Historic District project so must meet with DAB and DRB requirements. Joe has discussed this with them and we will have written instructions in hand before starting work.

Dead tree at Shortt Cemetery:

There is a maple tree at Shortt cemetery that is mostly dead and heavily damaged by woodpeckers. It needs to come down. According to tree warden Neal Maker, it is a "hazardous tree" and state shade tree regulations allow us to remove it. It is outside the cemetery fence and in the town R.O.W. Cutting it will require a professional as simply felling it is not an option. The cemetery and utility lines are in the way. It was agreed that Michael would attend a Select Board meeting and see if the town is willing to arrange for the removal. The Road Crew has already stated they are not equipped to do the job.

Cemetery Inventory:

We agreed that it would be useful for us to visit each of our eight cemeteries with the sexton to see what condition each one is in and evaluate work that might be needed in the future. In addition, new members have not yet actually seen all of the cemeteries. A date of May 9 was proposed with that also being a chance to meet with someone from O.W.C. Since a quorum of the association will probably be present the inspection will be warned as a meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael F. Fullerton, secretary pro tempore.