

Calais Cemetery Commission
Meeting minutes: Nov 15, 2023

Present: Juanita Nunn, chair, Shari Fitch, Laura Daily, Michael Fullerton
Joe Mangan, Sexton

Called to order 6:06 Pm

Minutes of previous meetings were approved. We note that minutes of previous meetings are now up to date on the town website. There has been an issue with getting the minutes posted in a timely manner. The commission has put procedures in place to remedy that.

Sexton's Report:

Joe Mangan stated that the gate at the Old West Church cemetery should be finished by next week. As it is pressure treated lumber it won't be painted until next fall.

All the stones in Poplar Hill cemetery that needed cleaning are done. There are a number of stones leaning or fallen that will be repaired next season. Joe also noted that all the cemeteries have been closed for the winter. Shari Fitch noted that she recently found one gate at Robinson cemetery open again. Joe will make sure it is closed.

Plot sales since June have totaled \$15,200. That amount is added to the balance of our endowment. Since part of the plot price includes the corner markers for each lot, we will begin to reserve \$250 from each sale to pay the sexton to buy and install the markers. Previously the whole lot price has gone to the endowment leaving us with an additional expense of installing corner markers.

Joe also presented new proposals for the general sexton's contract and mowing contract. Fuel and labor costs have increased the mowing contract to \$38,500. Other costs remain the same as the last contract.

New Budget:

The commission considered the F. Y. 2025 budget in light of the new mowing contract and other expenses. There is also the annual withdrawal from the endowment. The new proposal is tentatively set at \$45,000, \$5,000 less than the F. Y. 2024 budget. Two items are left unresolved at present, those being a contribution from the Old West Church Assn. toward the cost of the new fence, and a payment from the Bliss Family Trust for back payments on the maintenance of the Bliss section of the Fairview cemetery. A final budget proposal will be made at the next meeting pending resolution of those two issues. The next meeting will be scheduled when those issues are resolved.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 Pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Fullerton, Secretary.