

Calais Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2020

Robinson Cemetery

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

Guest: Joe Mangan

John called the meeting to order at 5:10.

Minutes from the February 19th meeting were reviewed and approved.

Sexton's report: Jennifer reported that a resident wishes to purchase a plot for a memorial bench installation at Janes Cemetery. Jennifer made a motion to approve the sale pending acceptable design review by Commissioners. Randy 2nd. Approved.

Robinson Cemetery: Jennifer presented aerial drone photos of the cemetery that her friend had taken. Joe recommended changing the plot dimensions for the green burial section to 6' x 10' to accommodate the earth mounds. He'll create a grid layout that the landscape designer can work with. Jennifer will convey the layout to the designer. Commissioners examined a large number of precariously tilted and a couple recently broken headstones in the older section of the cemetery. All agreed that intervention is needed to prevent further damage and costlier repairs in the future. Joe will repair and straighten as many headstones as possible this year for \$10,000.

Burial plot sales: Jennifer reported that the language regarding plot sales needs clarification. A person purchases "burial rights," rather than the actual piece of land. If one later decides to sell the plot, it must be re-sold to the Town only, for the original purchase price. Burial costs are paid only at or around the time of burial. She will ensure that the website includes such language.

Contractor's Report: Joe recommended repairing the headstones (above) sooner than later. Memorial Day flags have been placed, and mowing is underway up to Memorial Day weekend. He will deal with a large fox hole in Old Fairview Cemetery.

Financial report and Fiscal Year 2020/21 budget: Commissioners reviewed the budget and expenses as of March 31. The endowment balance as of 3/31 is \$141,707.52 (a loss of approx. \$23,000 since 1/31)

The meeting adjourned at 6:50.

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

Next meeting

June 24, 2020

Time and Location TBD

Respectfully submitted,

Fletcher Dean,

May 22, 2020