

Calais Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2014 (previously scheduled for 9/18)

Town Hall

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 August 21 Commissioners' meeting were reviewed and approved.

SEXTON'S REPORT:

\$13,305.59 of present fiscal year budget has been spent.

Wyatt recommends trimming the hedges at Fairview cemeteries next summer. He estimates it will cost approximately \$4,500. Bid should include clear definition of "clean up" responsibilities for the contractor. Wyatt would like two weeks' notice before the start to prepare grounds.

OLD WEST CHURCH CEMETERY:

Commissioners finished painting the fence on 9/24, thanks to the volunteer help of Paul Ohlson and Lucy Wollager. Discussion about need to reinforce and straighten fence posts.

AINSWORTH CEMETERY:

John will put up the sign and install a strapping hinge on the gate.

TOWN PLAN DRAFT:

Randy and Jennifer will draft a Cemetery Mission Statement and circulate among commissioners for input.

CEMETERY ENDOWMENT FUND:

The plan to withdraw \$2,500 to pay the balance of the bill for pressure washing stones at Robinson Cemetery was tabled. John reported that the Select board may be able to find funds to cover it at a later date. Randy recommended building a capital budget for future projects, such as pressure washing and repairing stones, hedge trimming, fence replacement, etc. We need to inventory the large number of broken headstones needing repair. With the exception of Robinson all the other cemeteries' headstones need washing.

VIRTUAL AND ACTUAL TOURS:

Randy has taken many photos of headstones in town cemeteries. He and Juanita will work with Scott Bassage to set up the virtual tour on the town website. Jennifer will post an invitation on Front Porch

Forum for the public to visit Robinson Cemetery over fall foliage weekend, Oct 4 & 5, to see the recently cleaned headstones.

OLD FAIRVIEW CEMETERY:

John has hung a new "Bliss Section" sign under the present sign. Jennifer found a source for granite post replacements for about \$100 each. Wyatt will install posts and wooden fence by April.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40.

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

Next meeting Thursday, October 16, 2014

7 PM

Calais Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Fletcher Dean,

September 29, 2014