

Calais Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2021

Town Hall

Present: John Simanskas, Fletcher Dean, Juanita Nunn

Guests: Joe Mangan, Diane Simanskas

John called the meeting to order at 7:05

Minutes of the June 23 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Sexton's Report: Joe reported that mowing is steady with recent rains and heat. There are just two remaining plots for sale in the green burial section of Robinson Cemetery. He recommends expanding into available land on either side for 12 extra plots. He recommends planning for more tree purchases in next year's budget. Regarding the deteriorating wooden fence, he said about half the posts (approx. 30) are wood and need to be replaced with granite posts. John had researched prices and found posts available for \$156 each. The cost of additional components - chain and hardware - plus Joe's labor push the costs beyond our headstone repair budget for this year. He estimates \$1,500 to demolish the fence \$1,000 for disposal, and about \$5,500 to install granite posts for this season (\$8,000). Commissioners agreed that fence replacement is a higher priority than general headstone repair. Fletcher made a motion to have Joe demolish and dispose of the fence for \$2,500 and give a more accurate cost of parts for the September meeting, before continuing to install posts this fall. Any leftover funds up to the budgeted \$10,000 will be used to repair the most critical need headstones this fall. Chain installation to be completed in 2022 season. Juanita 2nd. Passed.

Bliss Cemetery Trust (Old Fairview Cemetery): The town had received from VT Superior Court, Probate Div. a simple notification of this account. Fletcher offered to call the court for more information.

Fairview Cemetery: John reported that the contractor will trim the hedge this fall for the usual price.

Ainsworth Cemetery fence painting: no report was available at the meeting.

Financial report and Fiscal Year 2021/22 budget: Commissioners reviewed the budget and expenses as of July 26. The endowment balance as of June 30 was \$224,385.19.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15.

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

Next meeting

September 22, 7 PM

Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Fletcher Dean

August 27, 2021