

Calais Cemetery Commission Special Meeting Minutes

June 29, 2019

Robinson Cemetery and Maple Corner Community Center

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

Guests: Joe Mangan, Suzanne Kelly - Green Burial consultant from Rhinebeck, NY

Juanita called the meeting to order at 2:10.

**Green Burials proposed site:** Commissioners discussed the attributes, attractiveness and landscape possibilities of the large grassy expanse in the NW section of the cemetery. Suzanne related her cemetery's five year experiences with green burials. She discussed pure green burials versus hybrid options for conventional plots. Corner markers are needed. Hole should be dug two feet from the memorial. Stones must be natural and no more than three inches thick (no polished stones). Engraved OK. She went over many technical aspects of burials: materials for shrouds, coffins, ash urns and boards used for the burials, as well as families' responsibilities for their participation. Some burials may last longer if it becomes a memorial service. Interment fee may need to reflect longer hours for supervision by maintenance contractor and/or sexton. She reported that a burial cart has been received well by patrons.

(At MCCC) Suzanne reviewed handouts of Best Practices guidelines and the checklist items for families' responsibilities. With a few tweaks to be Calais-specific, these documents are extensive and ready to use. Green burial is the "final burial" except for criminal investigations. Cremations are generally accepted by her cemetery while the green burial concept is relatively new. Grave maintenance may require extra work which commissioners may want to consider in setting plot fees. Jennifer and Joe will create rules and regs and a family's checklist, and send to Suzanne for her feedback.

Suzanne said the \$450 annual fee to belong to <https://www.greenburialcouncil.org/> is worthwhile for certification.

She also likes a software program that correlates burial data with maps: <https://www.cemify.com/>

Meeting adjourned at 4:00.

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

**Next meeting July 17th, 2019 (NOTE 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed.)**

**7 PM, Town Office**

Respectfully submitted,

Fletcher Dean,

July 1, 2019