

## Calais Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2021

Town Hall & via Zoom

Present: John Simanskas, Fletcher Dean, Juanita Nunn, Randy Koch (Zoom), Laura Dailey (Zoom)

Guests: Joe Mangan, Kaira Mangan, Diane Simanskas, Paul Hannan, Cornelia Carey, Chris Miller, Donna Fitch, John McCullough, Denise Wheeler (Zoom)

John called the meeting to order at 7:05

Minutes of the August 25th meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Robinson Cemetery:** John McCullough advised the commissioners to halt work on the planned replacement of the deteriorating fence until meeting with the Design Advisory Board, as the cemetery falls within the town's historic district. Joe had removed and disposed of the boards in the last month. John McC. recommended filling out an application for approval before spending any more money budgeted for the project. Juanita and Fletcher replied that the commissioners had filled out an application in 2019 for a similar project at the Old West Church Cemetery and never received a decision in writing from either the DAB or the Development Review Board. John McC. said they will communicate back to the commission on that application.

**Janes Cemetery bench:** Paul Hannan presented a rough sketch of a proposed granite bench to be sculpted by Chris Miller. The Commission had approved Paul's purchase of one plot for placement of a bench. Joe had responded earlier to Paul that he didn't think the commission would approve of it. Discussion followed on the aesthetics of headstones and memorials in different cemeteries and the rights of plot owners. Juanita made a motion to accept the design. Fletcher amended the motion to ensure that the bench fit within the 4'x13' boundaries of a standard plot. Laura 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved.

**Agenda postings:** Denise reminded commissioners to also post meeting agendas on the town's website.

**Sexton's Report:** Joe reported that mowing has been steady. He recommends straightening the most critical need headstones in Robinson and New Fairview Cemeteries. He will replace a badly broken stone in Shortt Cemetery with a flat grass marker. For the Robinson fence, he estimates \$600 for 1,000 ft. of chain, \$6,240 for granite posts and \$5,800 to install.

**Bliss Cemetery Trust (Old Fairview Cemetery):** The town had received from VT Superior Court, Probate Div. a simple notification of this account. Fletcher contacted the town attorney for advice and he suggested that Fletcher go to the courthouse to research the file pertaining to the trust, which was established to provide funds for maintenance.

**Ainsworth Cemetery fence:** Laura reported that multiple boards need replacing.

**Financial report and Fiscal Year 2021/22 budget:** Commissioners reviewed the budget and expenses. The endowment balance as of August 31 was \$235,178.61.

**Other business:** John and Joe will coordinate hanging a sign on Ainsworth Cemetery. Juanita reported that she had helped visiting Utah residents drive to a few cemeteries to find their relative's headstone, which they eventually did.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55.

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

**Next meeting**

**October 27, 7 PM**

**Town Hall**

Respectfully submitted,

Fletcher Dean

September 30, 2021