

Town of Calais Cemetery Commission Minutes

10/26/2022

7-9 PM Calais Town Hall

Commission Members Present: Juanita Nunn (Chair); Laura Dailey; Shari Fitch; Michael Fullerton; Joe Magnon – Sexton (via zoom) Randy Koch

Not in Attendance: None

Members of the Public: Stephanie Caplan (Via zoom)

Juanita called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

Adjustments to Agenda: Discuss a possible event in the future

Approve Minutes from October 12, 2022: Minutes approved

Sexton's Report – There is some grave filling still to be done. He has sold a couple more of the green burial plots. The hedges were trimmed in Fairview, the new section, on one side as usual. Joe measured the fences at Hudson, Robinson, and Old West Church to get material and price lists.

Fence Updates - Michael had a meeting with John McCullough who advised that according to the DRB we must use regular wood. The board discussed local options for lumber, and pressure treated vs. not. Pressure treated will last much longer but needs to go through a year or so of seasoning before being painted white.

Regarding Old west church and getting the fence into the ground, they could drill holes then put pipes in, then the posts in pipes. The pipes would be there forever if the wood ever needed replacing. We will need to know how many posts and how many holes are needed, and what the process would be. John Mccullough has diagrams and material lists. Joe will have a meeting with John to plan next steps. At Robinson, we need to talk to DAB about materials, and see if we can keep them within our budget. Determined it would make sense to buy materials now before they go up. If John could get answers quickly then Joe advised, he could make time to do it in November. If needed, we can call a special meeting to act before the next scheduled meeting.

The Old West Church Association is willing to help with the cost for that one. Shari spoke with Donna Fitch who advised that John would fill out the zoning applications for it then we need the DAB approval. Shari will follow up with Donna to see if they know how much they can put into the fence repair and if we must do a zoning application still.

FY 2024 Budget Planning 7/1/2023-6/30/2024

Budget Report – According to the financial report, we lost about \$40,000 in investment income. Juanita believes \$50 from each burial goes into our fund. Joe said he still doesn't really understand the way it was set up accounting wise.

Burial expenses we have a wide range, so we just put in \$1000 as a placeholder. Hedge trimming is \$3500/year usually if it continues as it has been. Juanita will contact him about the price and be sure it's not going up. He always does that in the fall.

We need a contract from Joe for next year. The biggest expense is usually the mowing contract. Last year the numbers were \$31,000 for mowing, Joe estimated he will have to increase to \$32,500 and increase the Sextons wage so that contract will be \$2500 or so more as the prices have increased. When someone buys a plot, place markers corer posts come out of the cost of the plot. Joe ordered 44 so that will have to be billed. 4/plot, that should go under burial expenses. Juanita didn't know what else goes under supplies other than flags which there is enough to not have to order more for a year. Last year we budgeted \$2000 for supplies and \$2000 for misc.

Special projects will include cleaning the stones at poplar hill, possibly the fence for Hudson which would be granite posts and chains. Joe estimates we would need 65-66 granite posts for Hudson. Michael asked about spreading these projects over a couple of years. Hudson would be about \$11,500 for posts, probably \$15000 total. The stone cleaning is probably about \$6000, about \$10/stone. We could explore possible grants for cleaning stones as well.

Laura will also ask Peter Dailey if we have anything stored at the town garage for fence or supplies and see if we could store stuff there if needed. Michael mentioned the discussion of maintenance of the bliss section, and the \$2500 for previous maintenance that would be a one-time thing and could help a little bit. We need to do a letter for that.

Shari made a motion to approve the budget for FY 2024 of \$49,500, motion approved.

Other Business: We discussed planning a future event for community engagement and potential fundraising, such as possibly reviving the pumpkin wagon ride on George Road or something like that for the next year. Other ideas included historical walks, ghost walks, star gazing, movies, and other activities.

Shari asked if anyone would object to moving the meetings to 6pm instead of 7pm, all agreed. Shari made a motion to adjust the meeting time to an hour earlier. Michael seconded; motion approved.

The next meeting will be at **6pm** on November 16.

Shari made a Motion to Adjourn at 8:22pm. Motion Approved.
